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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE

### NATION



President Barack Obama is within reach of the 270 electoral votes needed to win a second term.

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### ASIA



The killing of an American serviceman in an exchange of fire with allied Afghan soldiers pushed U.S. military deaths in the war to 2,000.

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### OVERDRIVE



Lexus decided to redo the 2013 ES playlist with a smidge less Peabo Bryson and a smidge more "Gangnam Style."

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Fund requires documents authenticated by US Embassy. **PAGE 3**  
Back wages issued to hospital personnel. **PAGE 5**

## OPA TESTIMONY TO IMPEACHMENT PANEL:

# Fitia linked to 'airport' incident

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**G**ov. Benigno R. Fitia was linked to alleged

attempts of some local law enforcement officials to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons on his way out of Saipan on Aug. 4, based on yesterday afternoon's testimony of Office of the Public Auditor investigators before a legislative panel reviewing a resolution to impeach the governor.

See AIRPORT on Page 4

» 'DPS threatened to arrest OPA investigators for trying to serve Buckingham penal summons'



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
Juan Santos, chief investigator at the Office of the Public Auditor, testifies before the Special Committee on Impeachment on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Santos provided oral testimony and a copy of his after-action report on the events surrounding OPA's efforts to serve a penal summons to attorney general Edward Buckingham in August.

## Tinian employees 'volunteer' to work for one day without local budget law

### » Governor signs Tinian local budget law on Oct. 1

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Some 20 government employees on Tinian "volunteered" to report to work yesterday to avoid disruption of public services during the first day of fiscal year 2013 without a new local budget law in place.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia signed a \$3.5-million local Tinian budget law only at around 4pm yesterday, and the administration said it was because Tinian officials transmitted the spending

package only on Saturday when the CNMI-wide budget bill was also under review to beat the Sept. 30 deadline.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said yesterday he wouldn't call it a "Tinian local shutdown" because there was no disruption of public service on Tinian despite the absence of a local budget.

He said almost everyone affected by a shutdown showed up to work on a "volunteer" basis because they were not expecting to get paid.

Dela Cruz said these include some  
See VOLUNTEER on Page 4

## Lawsuit against CNRA now has 34 plaintiffs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

More alien workers and U.S. permanent residents are joining an amended lawsuit filed in federal court against Department of Homeland Secretary Janet Napolitano and other federal officials over the implementation and enforcement of the U.S. immigration law in the CNMI.

From seven plaintiffs in the original complaint, there are now 34 plaintiffs in the amended complaint that attorney Stephen C. Woodruff filed on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The original seven plaintiffs are Bonifacio V. Sagana, Manuel T. Vilaga, Gerardo G. De Guzman, Hector T. Sevilla,

Carlito J. Marquez, Eduardo M. Elenzano, and Jong Ho Lee.

Of the seven original plaintiffs, Sagana, Vilaga, Marquez, and Lee are still plaintiffs in the amended complaint. However, 30 others joined as plaintiffs.

The new plaintiffs are businessman Rabby Syed, Roy Reyes, Alam Bhuiyan, Haridas Chakraborty, Luzviminda Erwin, Sharafot Ali Mollah, Jose Ramos, Richard Asuncion, Jocelyn Domaol, Rene Maligsa, Rolly Montecarlo, Ming Long Li, Catherine Torres, Xiao Qin Zhao, Quan Bin Jin, Jing Guo Jin, Chang Qing Lu, Li Gong Gu, and Joel Manalansa Enriquez.

The other new plaintiffs are Aurelia  
See LAWSUIT on Page 4



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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

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# Local

## Intoxicated woman allegedly hits drunken husband with lawn chair

An intoxicated woman allegedly hit her drunken common-law husband with a plastic lawn chair on the head during their argument at their house in Lower Dandan on Thursday midnight.

Gina Sablan, 33, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

The victim suffered a small

laceration on the top left part of the head.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a \$6,500 cash bail for Sablan's

temporary release.

Detective Conrad Matthew T. Manglona stated in his report that preliminary investigation showed that prior to the fight, Sablan and her common-law husband bought beer on Wednesday because it was "re-

tirement payday."

As the couple became drunk, they ended up arguing over their past problems. Sablan then allegedly hit the victim with a plastic lawn chair on the head.

The strong blow caused the chair to break into pieces. Sa-

blan then took a glass cup and threw it at the victim's head.

A witness called the police. When two police officers arrived at the house at 12:26am Thursday, they saw Sablan allegedly choking the victim. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority  
*Tourism is everybody's business.*

## 2012 Shenyang Tourism International Festival

In partnership with Century Tours, the Marianas Visitors Authority participated in the 2012 Shenyang Tourism International Festival held on Aug. 17-19, 2012 in Shenyang Zhongshan Park and Shenyang York Hotel in northern China.

In addition to participating in the festival's opening ceremony, the MVA and Century Tours operated a booth at the venue where they distributed brochures and product leaflets and answered questions of festival attendees.

The MVA office also participated in the welcome lunch, which provided a networking opportunity with regional trade partners.



So far this fiscal year through June 2012, over 58,000 Chinese have visited the Northern Mariana Islands, an increase of 83 percent compared to the same period last year. The MVA opened its China offices **Beijing** and **Shanghai** earlier this year.



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OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012 EDITION  
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**CORAL OCEAN POINT**  
7,015 yards/Par 72  
Coral Ocean Point is built along the rocky cliffs on the southern part of Saipan and offers a 12-hole 18 of everything from an elevated tee box, lake holes, and ultrafast green sand traps.  
The holes along the cliff have a beautiful view of the sea and the most difficult to play because of the strong winds that blow from the ocean.  
Coral Ocean Point (No. 14) is a tricky Par 3 that starts on top of a cliff and demands a high tee shot. The green is elevated and the hole is in a pocket. The course is designed for a dramatic experience with its stunning views.  
Lynn Nelson, an elite golfer in the '80s who retired to Saipan, designed the course.

**KINGFISHER GOLF LINKS**  
7,000 yards/Par 72  
Tucked away in the beautiful jungle on the eastern coast of Saipan, Kingfisher Golf Links is a truly beautiful and an excellent course for all levels of golfers. The course is a mix of old and new holes, and some of the most beautiful views in the island. The course is a mix of old and new holes, and some of the most beautiful views in the island. The course is a mix of old and new holes, and some of the most beautiful views in the island.

**Saipan golf précis**  
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
TAGA Sports Staff Writer  
E after this year I was fortunate enough to find the time to speak out to the links at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort and most admit that even though my score was nothing to boast about, it was the most fun I ever played in my life. Back in Indiana, I learned the game of golf from my father, an avid golfer, in the Midwest where a round of golf on any of a handful of run-of-the-mill public courses in the city would run in each about \$40.  
Thus the idea of getting to play on any of Saipan's championship courses for roughly the same price as I pay at home, so I took a trip to Saipan and played a round on the island's most beautiful and overall layout. The courses may be difficult to play, but you have to start somewhere, and realize that courses that are kept in the U.S. mainland could attract players at well over \$100 a round, so take advantage, but remember plenty of extra balls!

**JEFF RACE FINDS FRESH JOY**  
WHAT'S IN A NICKNAME? CRASH COURSE IN CANOEING JOHANN NOETZEL IN 13 QUESTIONS  
PLUS  
GOING ON SAIPAN: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW  
NMA CHURNS OUT CHAMPIONS JOSHUA TAITANO SETS THE PACE

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## FOR FUND MEMBERS WITH SPOUSES LIVING OFF-ISLAND

# Fund requires documents authenticated by US Embassy

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund is requiring active members who are withdrawing their contributions to submit a consent form from their spouses living outside the Commonwealth that is authenticated by the U.S. Embassy.

Affected members said this new requirement will result in a delay in the issuance of their retirement contribution as the U.S. Embassy authentication may take time to secure.

The Fund last Sept. 17 started receiving refund applications following the enactment of Public Law 17-82, which authorized members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions from the pension agency without separating from the government.

Since this date, over 1,000 applications were received and now being reviewed by the acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that many members have already submitted their "notarized spouse consent form" without U.S. Embassy authentication and that the documents were accepted by agency staffers.

A nurse at the public hospital confirmed with *Saipan Tribune*

that it was on Sept. 22 when her application, along with the required documents, was accepted by the Fund. She is now awaiting the release of her contribution estimated at over \$40,000 which is anticipated to be released soon. Among the documents she submitted is the notarized spouse consent form which was mailed from Manila.

Another active government employee for 20 years disclosed that the same document was submitted and accepted by the agency staffer when she filed a refund application last Sept. 20.

Meantime, an employee at the Commonwealth Health Center for seven years expressed disappointment when a Fund staffer refused to accept his application and documents, citing he needs the spouse consent form authenticated by the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in Manila, where his wife is located. He went to the agency last Sept. 24, a week after the opening of applications.

"I am now confused because I have the same documents like my colleagues, but they refused to accept mine. Is this a new requirement? I hope they reconsider because it would take time to secure the needed authentication from the U.S. Embassy which means it will delay the

process," the 45-year-old male employee at CHC said, adding that with the "new" requirement asked from him, he needs to send back the document to Manila.

The employee is just among four active members interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* who were asked to submit the same "authenticated" document from the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

Some employees fear that the new requirement is only a "delaying tactic" of the agency until a decision is made whether it will challenge the refund law or not.

Since last week, Pangelinan confirmed that no application has been approved yet as review is ongoing.

"I hope they will clear this issue once and for all...because we don't want to wait. We're worried what will happen to our application now that they have new requirement. If our applications are on hold, we hope they will let us know as soon as possible," another hospital staffer said Friday.

## What's in the checklist

Based on the Defined Benefit refund document checklist which can be found at the Fund's website, there are four requirements that needs to be satisfied by

members who want to apply for refund: 1.) application for election to terminate membership in the DB plan; 2.) valid picture ID with signature; 3.) authorization to disburse refund of contribution form. If the member is electing to receive via ACH (automated clearinghouse deposit), the Fund requires bank accounts here or off-island; and 4.) If member is married, notarized spousal consent form is required.

## Requirement to prevent fraud

In a statement yesterday, the Fund clarified the requirement for U.S. Embassy authentication of foreign notary verification of signature. The agency said this is not a new requirement for members who wish to withdraw their contributions.

"Public Law 17-82 requires a member who is married to obtain spousal consent in order to refund contributions and

end their DB Plan membership. Electing to end DB Plan membership entails forfeiting rights—both for the member and for the spouse. If a member's spouse uses a notary from

See FUND on Next Page

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**Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach**

**Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field  
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS**

Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Tinian High School



# Fitial again calls lawmakers to a joint leadership meet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Now that a fiscal year 2013 budget is in place, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial once again extended his invitation to lawmakers yesterday to a joint leadership meeting to discuss four issues including the economy, the healthcare system, utilities, and the pension system but Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the governor is using

this meeting to veer attention away from a resolution to impeach him.

Fitial said the joint leadership meeting is set for Oct. 10, Wednesday, at 9am at the administration's main conference room.

"I cannot reiterate enough how important it is to continue fostering much needed collaboration for the common good of our people. Now that we have completed our task of ensuring that the FY 2013 budget is enacted, I would

like to extend anew this invitation for a joint leadership meeting with all the members of the CNMI Legislature..." Fitial said in his one-page letter to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Manglona.

Fitial earlier set the leadership meeting for Sept. 25 but this was postponed because of the budget crunch time.

The governor said the four topics to be discussed are: improving the economy and government services;

initiatives to reduce cost of utilities; the retirement fund program moving forward; and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The Senate president said the governor "is, I believe, using this leadership meeting to turn attention away from his impeachment."

"If the governor wants to do something about the CHC crisis, he should ask MPLT and the Office of the Attorney General to release the \$7-million loan to CHC. He signed the law a long time ago," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said if Fitial wants to talk about renewable energy, "I suggest he cancel the \$190-million power purchase agreement and contract he signed with Buckingham."

"If he wants to address the Retirement Fund, he should have done so

before the deadline for initiatives. The Senate had SLIs 17-13, 17-14, and 17-15 all to help the Fund. If he wants to talk economy and casino, he should talk to the casino investor on Rota that is building a \$170-million casino on Rota. If he wants to talk about the people, he should immediately tell Melvin Faisao of DCCA to implement the national food stamp program SNAP and immediately hire an experienced contracting officer to move capital improvement projects," Manglona added.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), for his part, said this leadership summit is "vital" and "the only way to get out of this economic slump is working together."

"Differences must be set aside. After all, we are working for the same people," Camacho said.

## VOLUNTEER

From Page 1

20 employees at the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, the Tinian Municipal Treasury, and the Office of the Mayor that are being funded by casino revenues.

"I am very grateful to the employees for showing up to work to make sure no public services will be disrupted. I also thank the governor for immediately reviewing and signing it, considering the situation on Tinian," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor signed the Tinian local budget law yesterday afternoon in the presence of Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

Fitial's signing of the local budget law came two days after the Tinian Municipal Council concurred on Saturday with the Tinian Legislative Delegation's passage of the local spending package on Wednesday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan

also pointed out last night that the governor received the local budget bill only on Saturday, when the governor's budget team was also racing against time to review the \$114-million CNMI budget bill before the Sept. 30 deadline.

"While the administration was cognizant and very concerned that a partial shutdown will affect the people of Tinian, Governor Fitial and his budget team were racing against time to thoroughly analyze the CNMI budget bill first. Once that was completed late yesterday, the administration's budget team started the same analysis process with the Tinian municipal budget," Demapan said.

The press secretary added that "before any budget bill is passed, it is paramount that a thorough analysis is conducted to ensure that the budget is one that is balanced, and most of all, that it is legal."

Fitial signed the CNMI government-wide budget law by Sunday's deadline, averting a shutdown that would have forced over 1,500 employees to be job-

less starting yesterday.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said he wouldn't call it a partial shutdown on Tinian either, because operations were normal despite the absence of a new local budget. He added that the governor signed a Tinian budget law in the afternoon.

Under the \$3.5-million Tinian budget, which is higher than the estimated \$3 million the previous year, expenditure authorities are given the "flexibility" in determining the implementation of up to eight hours work reduction biweekly. Exempted from work hour cuts are casino commission inspectors.

Tinian's total estimated revenue from the casino industry in FY 2013 is \$3,520,039.

Of this amount, over \$2.968 million will come from casino tax revenue, \$500,000 from casino license fees specifically Tinian Dynasty Hotel/Hong Kong Entertainment's renewal, \$25,000 from casino application fee, and \$20,250 from device fees.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). Also present were committee members Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

The panel also called OPA legal counsel George Hasselback, who will be testifying again today on other allegations in the impeachment resolution.

Earlier yesterday, the committee also heard testimony from other witnesses including an employee at Aquarius Beach Tower where Buckingham and his wife stayed, KSPN 2 reporter Tina Sablan, and Glen Hunter. Sablan and Hunter were at the airport on the morning the Buckinghams were escorted by armed police and ports police officers.

Sablan's video footage showed the same DPS and CPA officers that were in the OPA's after-incident report that was presented to the Impeachment Committee.

The Impeachment Committee will continue to hear testimony this morning from representatives or officials of DPS, CPA, Office of the Attorney General, OPA and the FBI.

This is the first time in CNMI history that an impeachment resolution has been formally introduced in the Legislature and formally reviewed by a special committee that the House speaker formed.

Fitial, in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he hopes there won't be 14 votes in the House to impeach him.

The House leadership is aligned with the governor.

At least 14 affirmative votes in the 20-member House are needed to impeach the governor, and at least six affirmative votes in the nine-member Senate to convict him.

Park said that Buckingham's biggest concern is whether he can still fly/leave this morning," Santos said in his report.

Santos also said Park reminded Buckingham that he was served a summons, and he has to appear on Aug. 6 in court.

"Buckingham said to him [Park], 'I am under direct orders to make sure that I get on that flight,'" Santos said in his report.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), chair of the Special Committee on Impeachment, said at this point that this information is "interesting."

Deleon Guerrero, during the hearing in the House chamber on Capital Hill, said the CNMI's "highest law enforcement official reports to only one person—the governor."

But he said the Special Committee on Impeachment should get more information about this.

The Fitial administration has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comment yesterday on OPA's testimony to the Impeachment Committee.

Deleon Guerrero also said the panel might need to issue additional subpoenas, especially to the DPS police officers who were mentioned in the OPA testimony.

"Thank you Mr. Santos for upholding the law," Deleon Guerrero told Santos as he dismissed from the hearing the OPA chief investigator at 4:10pm yesterday.

The committee then called the next witness, OPA investigator Juanette David-Atalig who was with Santos almost the entire time OPA was trying to serve Buckingham with the penal summons on Aug. 3 to 4.

Members of the Special Committee on Impeachment present took turns asking Santos questions, including chairman Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan),

## AIRPORT

From Page 1

The impeachment resolution listed 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty against the governor.

OPA chief investigator Juan Santos, in his after-action report about the airport incident submitted to the Impeachment Committee, also stated that Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro instructed DPS police officers not to assist OPA investigators in serving a penal summons against Buckingham.

Ogumoro also allegedly threatened to have OPA investigator Juanette David-Atalig arrested by DPS if she insists on serving the penal summons.

A DPS police officer also told OPA that he believes Ogumoro "was giving all this instruction because it may be that the Buckinghams have already informed the governor and that there instructions were coming from the top."

OPA's Santos also told the Special Committee on Impeachment about FBI special agent H. Park's serving of the penal summons to Buckingham in the VIP lounge of the Saipan airport on Aug. 4.

Santos said when Park opened the VIP lounge door, Ogumoro and Commonwealth Ports Authority ports police chief Jordam Kosam tried to stop him. Also present in the VIP lounge was the governor's security/driver, DPS Police Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes.

Santos said Park told Ogumoro to do his job while he does his. Santos said Park also told Ogumoro that if he touches him, he will arrest Ogumoro.

"And that's when Ambrosio and Jordan stepped away and SA H. Park approached Buckingham and served him with the penal summons. SA H.

CNMI pursuant to the immigration laws of the Commonwealth on Nov. 27, 2009 as unlawfully present in the U.S. on account of presence in the CNMI at any time during the transition period.

He asked the court to declare that the provision of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law) deferring applicability of the provisions of U.S. immigration law concerning asylum until 2014 violates the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Woodruff moved the court to compel defendants to accept and adjudicate asylum applications in and from the CNMI.

The lawyer also asked the court to declare that beneficiaries of the CNMI Attorney General's order granting "umbrella permits" to nominal overstayers are entitled to lawful status and employment authorization.

In May 2012, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the original lawsuit after Woodruff filed a motion to dismiss the case.

Manglona gave the plaintiffs 120 days, or no later than Sept. 28, 2012, to file an amended complaint.

Manglona said in amending the complaint, all claims should relate to the implementation, application, and enforcement of immigration laws of the U.S. in the CNMI and subject to the CNRA, Public Law 110-229, the Immigration Nationality Act, and other law.

In a motion to dismiss, Woodruff requested to allow them to amend the complaint so they could drop and add parties and claims.

others outside the U.S. with respect to Fund benefits, are truly so authorized."

It also stated that the requirement is not a "delaying tactic," but rather part of the Fund's efforts to comply with the law by insuring that refunding members obtain spousal consent and that such spousal consent is not fraudulently presented. While inconvenient, it said this is a necessary step in the orderly and smooth distribution of refunds.

Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she's not aware if the agency had accepted applications without the necessary authentication.

"I am not aware that we have accepted applications without the necessary authentication. However, if any is discovered during review process, we will notify the affected applicant(s) to comply with such requirement," added Pangelinan.

## LAWSUIT

From Page 1

Cabacab Ybanez, Songzhe Yin, Catherine Torculas, Yolanda Roque Oringo, Hong Wang, Erlinda B. Ruga, Tong Hua Wang, Lian Peng Zhang, Uthayachandran Kandia, Ping Fan Mo, and Rogelio R. Cada.

The amended complaint also added more defendants. Named as defendants are Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, Attorney General Eric Holder, Office of Detention and Removal Operations director John T. Morton, Department of Homeland Security field office for Guam/CNMI director Stephen P. Green, USCIS/DHS California Services Center director Rosemary Langley Melville, and U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.

Woodruff asked the court to issue a declaratory judgment that aliens present in the CNMI immediately before and after 12am on Nov. 28, 2009, are to be deemed to have made a procedurally regular entry and lawfully admitted at that time and date for purposes of the immigration laws of the U.S.

Woodruff requested the court to declare that provisions in the Immigration and Naturalization Act pertaining to physical presence in the U.S. are to be interpreted and construed with respect to physical presence in the CNMI in the manner most advantageous to the aliens affected.

The lawyer sought a court order prohibiting the defendants from treating aliens lawfully present in the

## FUND

From Page 3

a foreign country to witness their signature, the Fund requires that the U.S. Embassy 'authenticate' the foreign notary, in which case the consular seal is placed over the seal of a foreign authority whose seal and signature is on file with the American embassy or consulate," stated the Fund, adding that a consular authentication attests to the seal and signature of the issuing authority, and assists in the prevention of fraud.

The statement added that the "requirement for U.S. Embassy authentication of foreign notaries is not new or unique to the Application to Terminate DB Plan Membership. This is a requirement of the Fund in recent years to ensure that individuals presenting themselves as authorized to act for



# Back wages issued to hospital personnel

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Back wages amounting to about \$10,000 were issued yesterday to at least seven employees of the Commonwealth Health

## Torres criticizes board members Raho, Aguon

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres criticized yesterday board members Anthony Raho and Anthony Aguon for continuously raising "issues" he described as "merely distractions."

Torres emphasized to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his emails to both members had already clarified his positions on several issues, including among others the contract for CEO Juan N. Babauta, the issues about the Tinian Health Center, and the request for emergency board meeting.

Babauta refused to comment yesterday on anything related to his contract and told *Saipan Tribune* that there are more pressing issues that the corporation has to focus on at present.

"We should be focusing on resolving and removing the immediate jeopardy status of our hospital...and all these things are just distractions. Mr. Raho is just a distraction," said Torres yesterday, adding that he even asked the board member if he has time to spare and help the executive team complete the corrective action plan, but to no avail.

Torres provided *Saipan Tribune* copies of the exchanges of emails between and among board members last week, where the following were noted.

Center, demonstrating the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s commitment to fulfill its settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta and board chair Joa-

In a Sept. 27 email, Torres and Raho debated on some particular issues such as the emergency board meeting.

"I am not interested in sitting and listening to a recitation of problems. Everyone knows what the problems are. We don't need a meeting to discuss problems. We need a meeting to offer solutions or to solve problems/concerns/issues that some of you may have eloquently described. Am I to interpret this reluctance to submit proposed solutions to problems as simply that no one has any solution to offer? Are we going to debate/discuss solutions or are we simply going to debate problems?" Torres told Raho in his email.

Torres got more irked when Raho told the chairman the importance of calling a meeting in addressing the hospital citations from Medicare.

"You are well aware of the immediate jeopardy situations placed upon the corporation by CMS. This is a critical enough situation for corporation and it should be justification enough for you to convene an immediate board meeting with or without board members providing you a 'list' of recommendation/suggestion," Raho's email to the chairman stated.

Raho also specifically asked Torres to call the meeting to discuss Babauta's alleged illegal contract.

quin Torres signed off and distributed the checks yesterday with \$2,000 the highest amount released.

It was in early last month when U.S. Labor confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that there are a total of 101 hospital employees who were found improperly paid the last two years and must receive back wages totaling \$105,366.66.

Babauta disclosed that the corporation, based on the binding agreement with the federal agency, has 12 months to pay all the back wages to affected employees. Yesterday was the second batch of checks released by Babauta, the first was during last month's payroll, where he issued roughly

\$9,000 in back wages.

According to the CEO, affected employees may receive their back wages in full or in half, depending on the amount and upon availability of funds. The funding for the back wages was sourced from the hospital's revenue and collection.

He said the corporation intends to issue the back wage checks to affected employees every end of the month. For those individuals who are no longer working at CHC, a notice will be sent by the corporation.

Besides back wages, board chair Torres said also part of the settlement agreement with U.S. Labor is the timely remittance and issuance of personnel allot-

ments, especially the health insurance of employees. The corporation admitted that except for employer contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund, all items under the personnel allotment are up to date.

Torres, according to the CEO, is the one who worked with the federal agency and negotiated most of the conditions of the settlement agreement which covered January 2010 to February 2012.

Based on the U.S. Labor investigation, many hospital employees were not paid at least the half-time premium when they worked in excess of 40 hours per week. The issues that led to this are that nursing employees often worked

beyond their scheduled shifts but were not paid for that time. The uncompensated time was usually for work such as charting patient care and transferring information to the incoming shift.

It was also found that some employees were not paid for mandatory monthly unit staff meetings and required annual refresher training courses. Employees also had 30-minute meal breaks deducted from their hours even when those breaks were interrupted.

The U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division investigated the hospital in February this year after it received complaints that employees were not getting their salaries on time, including the nonpayment of personnel allotments such as insurance and retirement contributions.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION AND  
NAME CHANGE OF  
WHITNEY ELLEN HOCHHALTER

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0426  
NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ON **October 22, 2012** at 1:30 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in Courtroom 205A, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Superior Court, located at the Guma Hustisia, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, USA, the CNMI Superior Court will hear and rule upon the Petition of Ben and Heather Hochhalter for the Adoption and Change of Name of the female minor child known as Whitney Ellen Hochhalter, a.k.a. Whitney Ellen Eledui, who was born at the Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan, on February 23, 2012. A copy of the Petition and the documents filed in support of the Petition are available upon request to any person recognized by law to have a right to review them (including, but not limited to, the any person claiming to be the biological father) in the court file or upon request from Mr. Sean E. Frink, whose contact information is below. Anyone must file any opposition you may have to such Petition before the hearing date at a time and date as required by the law and Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure and may appear, either personally or by legal representative, at the hearing.

Dated: September 28, 2012.

/s/Sean E. Frink  
MARIANAS LEGAL STRATEGY GROUP, LLC  
Flame Tree Building, 2nd Floor  
Isa Drive, Capitol Hill  
P.O. Box 10001  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No. 670.3229991  
Sfrink@Marianaslaw.Com



# Hotel occupancy rate at 83% in August

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 82.68 percent occupancy among its 12-member hotels for August 2012, a 12-percent increase from Au-

gust 2011.

HANMI said 61,565 of 74,462 available room nights were sold in August 2012, compared to 52,415 of 74,648 of available room nights sold over the same

period last year. Room rates were \$123.78 during the month, compared to \$119.97 last May.

"August was a positive month for hotel occupancy, with our members exceeding 80 percent

occupancy, on average," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "Additional promotions conducted by the Marianas Visitors Authority before summer started have helped, and we hope

to see continued growth for the rest of the year."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average 74.01 percent, 9 percent higher than last year.

August year-to-year comparisons also reflect the room closures of Coral Ocean Point Resort earlier this year.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. **(PR)**

## Korean groups to perform in festival on Thursday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two performing groups from Korea are scheduled to arrive

today for an upcoming fundraiser to benefit four public and private schools on Saipan.

The Daejeon Rainbow Little Singers is comprised of 18 stu-

dents age 10 to 13 years and accompanied by 16 adult chaperones, including conductor Ko Seok Woo.

The group will be on island

for the second time since they took part in the 2012 Liberation Day festivities and Korean Festival.

The other visiting group, SMI

Orchestra of Jeonju City in Korea, has 11 members who will perform on Saipan for the first time with their conductor, Shon Kang Gi.

Jun Ho Park of JP Entertainment said in an interview yesterday that both groups are set to take center stage at the 2012 Korean Festival scheduled at 7pm on Oct. 4 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Tickets to the event cost \$5 per person and proceeds will go to Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School, Kagman Elementary School, Korean Community School, and Marianas Baptist Academy.

Park said each school was given 100 to 200 show tickets for them to sell. Tickets cost \$5 each.

He noted that Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School has a "sisterly relationship" with Korea

Geo School, where members of the Daejeon Rainbow Little Singers study.

Thursday's event will also feature the 12-member Saipan Korean Folk Music Poongmul-pae as special guest. Susanne Park, 2012 Liberation Day Royal Court 3rd Princess, will serve as host.

Park noted that the event is scheduled within the week to coincide with Korean holidays and observances in the same period.

He invited the community to support the fundraising event which promises to give audiences a

wonderful show filled with live musical entertainment.

The 2012 Korean Festival is sponsored by *Saipan Times*, Tasi Tours, and iTour and Tong. For more information, call 287-0778.



Gi

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### SSHS to distribute mid-progress report Thursday

Saipan Southern High School will distribute term 1 mid-progress report for school year 2012-2013 on Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, from 3pm to 6pm. Parents and guardians are requested to please pick up their child's progress report from their teacher's classroom. Come meet your child's teachers and be involved in helping them succeed. **(PR)**

#### FOA announces show times for 'Deathtrap'

The Friends of the Arts is pleased to announce its next theatrical presentation, the Broadway success *Deathtrap*, scheduled for Oct. 12, 13, and 14. Written by Ira Levin, *Deathtrap* holds the record as the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway. The FOA production of this two-act play will be directed by Harold Easton.

Tickets are now available for purchase! Please call or email

Frank L. Gibson, the managing producer, at 287-7476 flgibson@yahoo.com. **(PR)**

#### Isla Center for the Arts presents Ceramic Celebration VI

Ceramic Celebration VI is an Isla Center for the Arts fundraising event featuring beautifully handcrafted ceramic pieces created by Lewis Rifkowitz, a University of Guam Fine Arts Professor of Sculpture/Ceramics and other local ceramic artists. The event is sponsored by the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Opening night is Thursday, Oct. 11, from 6pm to 9pm and runs through Nov. 16. The event will be held at Isla Center for the Arts located at House #15, Dean's Circle, in the University of Guam Campus. Ceramic Celebration VI is open to the public and admission is free.

Lewis Rifkowitz earned a B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute and an M.F.A. in ceramic sculpture from

Montana State University. Rifkowitz joined the University of Guam Fine Arts faculty in 1989 and throughout the years has taught courses in sculpture, ceramics, three-dimensional design, and environmental art. In addition to Rifkowitz, other local ceramic artists will also participate in this fundraising event.

With over 100 one of a kind ceramic pieces in a variety of shapes and colors available for purchase, it is a perfect start for your holiday shopping! Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for programming at the Isla Center for the Arts.

For more information, call 735-2965 or email islacenter@gmail.com. **(PR)**

#### \$18K donation to UOG School of Nursing

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) through the Guam Healthcare and Hospital Development Foundation has donated \$18,000 to the University of Guam School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Peter Sgro,

president and board chairman of the Guam Healthcare and Hospital Development Foundation, will present the check to the University of Guam on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 11:30am at the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Building on the UOG Campus. **(PR)**

#### GRMC presents at School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Guam Regional Medical City will give a presentation about the new hospital in the UOG School of Nursing and Health Sciences Building on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at noon. **(PR)**

#### GAO presentation on Compact of Free Association

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) will be presenting "Trends and Challenges in the Growing Migration under the Compacts of Free Association" at the University of Guam IT&E Lecture Hall (Room # 131), Jesus S. and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero SBPA Building at 2pm on Tuesday, Oct. 2. **(PR)**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its 3rd Quarter Meeting on Friday, October 05, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at the Pacific Islands Club, Annex Room, San Antonio Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - Roll Call
  - Presence of a Quorum
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Meeting Minutes
    - December 15, 2011
    - February 27, 2012
    - May 30, 2012
- II. 2012 Determination Letter
- III. OSEP's Results Driven Accountability(RDA)
- IV. Annual Performance Report Preliminary Data
- V. Other Matters
- VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Margarita Aldan  
Chairperson

/S/ Robin L. Palacios  
Interim Coordinator,  
Early Intervention Program

*Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its 3rd Quarter Meeting on Thursday, October 04, 2012, 5:00 p.m. at the Public School System Board of Education Conference Room, Bwughos Street, Susupe Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - Roll Call
  - Presence of a Quorum
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Meeting Minutes
    - July 03, 2012
    - September 05, 2012
- II. Title I Funds
- III. SESAP Goals and Priorities
- IV. SESAP Priorities Subcommittee Report
- V. Other Matters
- VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Frances Diaz  
Chairperson

/S/ Suzanne W. Lizama  
Director, Special Education Program

*Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds*

## Tropical Depression 20W passes south of Alamagan

The center of Tropical Depression 20W was reported passing south of Alamagan yesterday afternoon and was expected to intensify into a tropical storm at night, Monday.

As of 1pm, the center of Tropical Depression 20W was located 30 miles south-southeast of Alamagan, 55 miles south of Pagan, 105 miles south of Agrihan, and 150 miles north-northeast of Saipan.

The U.S. National Weather Service in Guam said a tropical storm warning remained in effect at this time for Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan Islands in the Northern Islands.

A tropical storm warning means tropical storm conditions, including winds of 39 to 73 miles per hour are expected within 24 hours.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 35 mph, the tropical depression is moving west-northwest at 13 mph.

NWS said residents of Pagan, Alamagan, and Agrihan need to complete preparations for tropical storm conditions and take

cover as soon as possible.

It is not clear yet how many people are currently staying on the Northern Islands. The Commonwealth Election Commission, however, recently reported that 70 of the 127 registered voters for the Northern Islands are currently living on those islands.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial advised the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers—to exercise caution along exposed reefs and beaches.

Fitial urged people to avoid venturing exposed reefs and beaches particularly those along west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening.

The Emergency Management Office said fresh to strong southwest monsoon winds developing over the Marianas Monday night will cause combined seas to rise to between 10 and 13 feet today, Tuesday.

In addition to rising seas, EMO said scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will affect Marianas waters through tonight, Tuesday. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP12-OHS-109 (DPS-FIRE)

**SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 17, 2012      TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**"DELIVERY OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN AND SPECIALIST INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, OCTOBER 04, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



## LAWSUIT ON MANAGAHA ISLAND ACCESS

# Marine sports operators oppose proposed amendment to regs »300 people also file comments, urging DPL not to adopt the proposed regulations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The five marine sports operators that are suing the Department of Public Lands submitted last week their public comments, expressing strong opposition to DPL's recent filing of a proposed regulations to amend its 1993 regulations regarding the commercial use of Managaha Island.

In addition to the public comments, the five compa-

nies—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—also delivered public comments by themselves individually and by more than 300 company owners, marine sports industry employees, their family members, and other concerned members of the community.

The five marine sports operators urged DPL not to adopt the proposed rules "because of the extreme harm it will cause

to tourism in the CNMI."

The operators said DPL would be, among other reasons, acting outside the scope of its constitutional and statutory authority by adopting the proposed rules.

"This issue is really about small business, hundreds of workers and their families, and the severe social and economic consequences to the CNMI that will result if the proposed rules are adopted," according to the operators in their comments addressed to acting DPL secretary Ramon S. Salas.

Those who signed the comments are the operators' presidents and vice presidents David Pangelinan, Josephine Santos, Manuel Alvarez, Bill Owens, and Ulysses Orpiano.

Cora Pangelinan, president

of another operator SMSA, also acknowledged and agreed with the comments of the five operators.

Jamille, a 9-year-old girl, was among the 300 people who submitted public comments. She said DPL should not take away people's jobs.

"These people are doing all the hard work for their families. If DPL and Tasi Tours had a mistake on this, a lot of people will suffer, families will end up in separation, and there will be no future for us," Jamille said.

DPL acting secretary Salas filed the proposed regulations due to a pending lawsuit filed by the five marine sports operators against DPL.

Salas stated in the public notice that the amended regulations expressly provide that

the pick up of persons for commercial activities from Managaha, regardless of how such persons were initially transported to the island, is limited to a designated concessionaire.

Attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for the five operators, stated in court papers that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in his opinion and order granting preliminary injunction, ordered that DPL and their officers, agents and attorneys are hereby enjoined from enforcing the interpretation of the 1993 Regulations and June letters.

Scoggins such Salas' approval of the proposed regulations was in violation of both the letter and the spirit of the preliminary injunction.

Last Aug. 23, the five marine sports operators resumed their business operations after complying with Camacho's bond requirement order.

The preliminary injunction that Camacho issued last July 19 granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

The operators are suing DPL to invalidate the department's "rule" promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2012 pertaining to Managaha access.

The subject "rule" prohibits marine sports operators from picking up customers on Managaha Island for their tours unless they are Tasi Tours or its subcontractors.

## Barcinas to step down as Liberation Committee chair

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Liberation Day Committee chair Jonas Barcinas plans to step down from his post after taking on its responsibilities for three years.

Barcinas said yesterday that he will be submitting soon his letter of resignation to allow the Saipan Mayor's Office to look for a replacement several months before the biggest community event on island takes place.

"I don't want to wait for the last minute. I need to let them know that I will be resigning from the chairmanship," he said in an interview following the tree-planting event sponsored by Tan Holdings at Hopwood Jr. High School.

Barcinas said he wants to focus on his full-time job as principal of the largest middle school on Saipan, Hopwood Jr. High School.

"I think three years is already good enough," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "I want to give others the opportunity to lead and volunteer their time to be of service to our community."

Although he plans to give up the position of chairman, Barcinas said he is still willing to be part of the committee but only as a member or a consultant to guide whoever would be selected as the new chair.

Barcinas said a Liberation Day Committee chair needs to be open-minded, willing to accept criticisms, a team player, respected by the community, a people person, and someone whose heart is in community service.

He said the committee chair should also be a transparent leader who is not authoritarian since each committee members has to contribute to ensure the success of the annual Liberation Day festivities.

Moreover, the next chair should be able to engage more support from the community despite the economic crisis in the CNMI, according to Barcinas, adding that funding would

still be the biggest hurdle for his successor.

Asked if he would nominate any individual to take over his post, Barcinas said, "I'm going to leave that up to the mayor... There's a lot of qualified individuals out there."

Barcinas acknowledged the entire Liberation Day Committee for being a "very powerful and strong" group as they deal with challenges in putting up the event each year.

"I know that the team is awesome. They already know what to do. They only need a leader to lead them and also to be of support to everybody and be out there to get resources to make things happen," he added.

Barcinas also said that the committee is going to continue hosting an alcohol- and smoke-free Liberation Day next year to encourage the public to become more health-conscious and make changes for the betterment of the community.

"If you care about your health, you should care about working together... I think it's just time for us to make changes in what we do," he said.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Have a wonderful birthday to our dear Anniea Sofia Saturno. We wish you all the best in life. Stay as pretty as you are. Greeting from your Mom Cheng, Tita Anna, and Avelyne.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Erin Angela Camacho. Cheers to another year of Awesomeness! From your WIC familia especially the Buttercup Crew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Chamber general membership luncheon set tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's October general membership luncheon meeting will be held tomorrow, Oct. 3, at Saipan World Resort. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, and meeting will begin promptly at 12 noon.

Speaking before the Chamber membership on Wednesday will be Dennis P. Jones,

president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS).

Jones will be joining the Chamber membership for luncheon on the last day of the Northern Marianas College's Strategic Planning Summit. Some Chamber Members will have participated in the

Tuesday government/business leaders retreat, and Jones will speak to the work ongoing at NMC in providing a better-prepared and college-educated workforce for the CNMI private sector and business community.

Two new members will be introduced, and other announcements will be made by

Chamber president Douglas Brennan at the luncheon concerning the upcoming Chamber Election Debate Forums and the Chamber's annual golf tournament for college scholarships at the end of October.

Luncheon is \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members and the general public. (PR)

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**Ada Tenorio**

**Thank You For Your Support!**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**





# Local jobseekers complete SHRM grant program

## »15 pass hotel front desk clerk and administrative clerk course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 15 individuals who completed SHRM's hotel front desk clerk and administrative clerk program show off their certificates while posing with Workforce Readiness Initiative program manager Frank Gibson, center.

The Society for Human Resource Management Workforce Readiness Initiative program has graduated its second group of administrative trainees seeking positions as hotel front desk clerks, administrative clerks, and receptionists.

This was the Initiative's sixth program, graduating 15 trainees last Sept. 15, completing a week of job preparation and administrative skills in their efforts to prepare themselves for employment in the CNMI's private sector. This group of jobseekers, referred by the CNMI Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Act Office, received 40 hours of training during the week of Sept. 10-Sept. 15, with hotel front desk, receptionist and general administrative clerk skills, plus basic computer and cashiering skills.

"This was a good group of trainees who will do well in filling the needs of the hotels and other private companies for administrative staff," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM and owner of the consulting company HR Support, CNMI. "This group had a mixture of trainees with some previous administrative work experience and others just entering the workforce for the first time. The training they received will prepare them to help the company that hires them. The program has given them a better understanding of what to expect on the job and provided some basic skills to make the company's training and orientation easier and more effective. Most of the trainees are also eligible for support from the WIA Work Experience or On-the-Job-Training Programs."

"Several of these trainees have already been placed since graduation. They have all been going out to businesses and applying for positions. They have resumes prepared as part of this program and a certificate of participation. I hope our commu-

nity businesses will recognize the potential of these applicants and give them an opportunity to show their capabilities. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. They will all do well," he continued, "I urge employers to contact the Initiative office at 233-7476, or me personally, at 287-7476, to arrange for interviews."

The third Initiative program participants include Bertha I. Ada, Mariah I. Ada, Chantel Aguon, Katrina T. Cabrera, Sevrene R. Cabrera, Joanne DLG Castro, Arnicia L. Kapi- leo, Bridget Josette Lizama, Memory Moni, Celeste P. Quitano, Erving M. Sablan, Davilynn Santos, Arlene Sandra Satur, Kaylynn M. Singa, and Iune Wabol.

SHRM's hotel front desk clerk and administrative clerk program included job preparation classes on job applications and resumes, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on customer service, hotel front desk clerk services, general administrative, receptionist and clerical duties, basic computer concepts, basic cashiering concepts and telephone answering and workplace etiquette.

Gibson said that the success of the program was also due to the professional skills and the interest of the instructors. "I would like to thank the SHRM members, Ms. Polly DLG Masga and Mr. Evan Hunsberger from PIC, Mr. Jim Arenovski from Delta Management, Ms. Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, Ms. Josephine Mesta and Ms. Rosalyn Quinanilla from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, and those from the private sector, Ms. Jill Arenovski from Seafix, Inc., Mr. Nat Angeles and Mr. Soc Nilo Villanueva, also from

Tan Holdings, who worked with the participants to prepare them for employment. I appreciate the business community's willing assistance."

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. This Initiative to benefit the community started on April 16 with a one-week warehouseman training program, just recently completed a seventh program for food service/wait staff workers, and will next repeat the warehousing program, running Monday, Oct. 8, through Friday, Oct. 12.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative is to facilitate the preparation of unemployed U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training, helping them to become better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. The Initiative consists of a series of one-week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the Workforce Readiness Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative will be working with the Work-

force Investment Agency and the CNMI Department of Labor to obtain suitable candidates that can receive WIA support to help with salary costs.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in joining one of the Initiative programs should immediately register with WIA and express their interest. All interested candidates should sign up with WIA to allow them to help employers with funding of Initiative graduates. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson, the Workforce Readiness Initiative manager, by e-mail at [hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com).

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can also contact Gibson at [hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com).

This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of \$102,000 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a Sub-grant award to the CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resources from the CNMI Department of Commerce. The CNMI SHRM Initiative is managed by HR Support, CNMI, a CNMI-licensed Human Resource Management consulting and training company. (PR)

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 2, 2000

#### FAA OKs \$2.4-M for Saipan airport project

Committed at making CNMI's international air commuter facility at par with its counterparts in the mainland United States and other countries in the world, the Federal Aviation Administration continues to pour in funds for the improvement of the Saipan airport. FAA's most recent re-affirmation of its commitment to improving air transport facilities in the Northern Marianas came in the form of a financial grant offer amounting to \$2.374 million earmarked for the rehabilitation of the Saipan International Airport runway. Under the proposed Grant Agreement, FAA will shoulder 100 percent of the allowable project costs of the first \$2 million and at least 90 percent of all other expenses that may be incurred for the completion of the project.

#### 297 health providers seek payment from NMIRF

Some 297 health providers, majority of which are from Hawaii, are demanding payment totaling \$5,087,195 from the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund. According to documents submitted to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Fund has so far processed claims amounting to \$1,794,243. Rep. Malua Peter, chair of the committee, urged Friday the Office of Management and Budget to identify some funds that can be earmarked by the Legislature for payment to these health providers.

Oct. 2, 2001

#### Tinian school funding bill heads to Teno

A bill reappropriating \$2.79 million for the construction of new classrooms at the Tinian Elementary School now heads to the desk of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio after the Senate passed it on second and final reading during Thursday's regular session on Tinian. As provided under House Bill 12-411, the money will be taken from the Capital Improvement Project allocations under Public Law 11-89 and will be used to construct new 7th and 8th Grade classrooms at the Tinian Elementary School, as well as other new projects and requirements. "The Tinian Legislative finds that due to the changing priorities and requirements of the [school], it is necessary that certain [CIP funds] appropriated under Public Law 11-89 for the Second Senatorial District of Tinian be reprioritized," a portion of the bill says.

#### Teno makes a pitch on fire prevention

The CNMI's blue-clad firemen trooped to the Capitol Hill yesterday to support the proclamation of the National Fire Prevention Week from October 7 to 13 next week. Surrounded by at least 25 firemen, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed the proclamation, with this year's theme as "Cover the Bases and Strike Out Fire." In line with this, the fire division of the Department of Public Safety will be conducting trainings and drills next week to teach the public how to prevent cooking, heating and electrical fires, and encourage them to develop a home fire escape plan that includes working alarms.

Oct. 2, 2002

#### NMI-US financial consultation underway

LOS ANGELES-Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and U.S. Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary David B. Cohen met in Los Angeles to discuss a number of issues, including the future of federal financial assistance to the CNMI. "The talks are very encouraging," Benavente said. "I am hopeful that the new thinking in Washington and the CNMI are beginning to bear fruit for the Commonwealth in the form of positive relations with the federal government." This first round of the consultations was a cordial get-acquainted session, with Benavente and Cohen each setting out their views on future financial assistance for the CNMI and related issues. Benavente and Cohen were in general agreement on many of the issues raised.

#### 'JAL-JAS merger good for CNMI'

The merger of Japan Airlines and Japan Air Systems will create more domestic network seen to cultivate new markets that would eventually prove beneficial to the Northern Marianas' tourism industry. Yesterday, JAL and JAS launched their initial combined operations. The carriers will fully integrate their flights in Spring of 2004, when JAL becomes the major stockholder of JAS, according to Saipan Office sales manager Yasuyoshi Kinoshita. Kinoshita said the integration of the two airline companies will provide a complete network in Japan, especially in areas where JAS has a stronghold.



# Island Snapshots

PHOTOS By CLARISSA V. DAVID



**LEADERSHIP MEMORIAL KIOSKU**

Family members of Jesus Arriola Torres, former Garapan commissioner, are seen among the hundreds in the audience during Saturday's ceremony for the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa.



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Angie Mangarero of the Carolinian Affairs Office lead past and present island leaders and their family members in visiting the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku, which was formally opened to the public on Sept. 29.



Hundreds attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku held in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday.



Dr. Edgar Tudor plays Taps to honor 355 past and present leaders of Saipan and the Northern Islands during the ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the official opening of the Saipan & Northern Mariana Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku on Saturday.



Above, chair Ramon B. Camacho of the 11th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council thanks proponents of the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku, the \$551,000 project funded through the Community Development Block Grant which was officially opened to the public in a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Sept. 29.

Left, current and former leaders gather for a souvenir photo following the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Saipan & Northern Mariana Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku on Sept. 29.



Community members check out the historic photos of past and present leaders who are recognized in the Saipan & Northern Mariana Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku which was formally opened to the public after a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Saturday.

40<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
Tan Holdings  
Established 1972

Weekly Raffle Winners

PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
Overnight Stay for 2 @ Kanoa Resort	0726	Froilan De Leon
GC fr. NAMI - \$20.00	1707	Lolita Merante
GC fr. Chambre - \$20.00	1400	Edwin Garcia
GC fr. Barefoot - \$20.00	1257	Pete Agitol
GC fr. Chambre - \$20.00	0926	Marida Pensader
GC fr. D&Q - \$20.00	2757	Paul
GC fr. Cosmos - \$20.00	1144	Geri Hofschneider
GC fr. D&Q - \$20.00	0701	Frannie Ramon
GC fr. D&Q - \$20.00	0204	John Sablan
GC fr. Tribes Bar - \$10.00	2150	Dibby Pesca

Winners must present their coupons to the Kanoa Resort front desk to receive prize.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Terror and consequences in Libya

**O**n Sept. 11, a band of heavily armed men stormed the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, overwhelmed a small security force and killed four men, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

At first, the White House said the attack was spontaneous, an outgrowth of a demonstration against a video that ridiculed the Muslim Prophet Muhammad. But day by day, top U.S. officials have come to suggest publicly that it was much more. Officials now say the embassy siege might have been a well-planned attack by al-Qaida-affiliated terrorists. On Wednesday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton became the highest ranking administration official to link an al-Qaida franchise in North Africa to the attack.

A scant five weeks before a presidential election, the evolving account of what happened in Benghazi has the White House looking defensive and Republicans seeing opportunity. The Obama campaign is sensitive to questions of whether there was a security lapse or intelligence failure. Some Republican leaders have seized on the administration's changing account to suggest that the administration isn't coming clean on what it knows about the attack and the attackers.

No doubt U.S. intelligence on this attack is growing and evolving. The new government in Libya has rounded up dozens of suspects for interrogation and looks to be fully cooperating with U.S. authorities.

Republicans run the risk of looking like they're capitalizing on tragedy. But they're right on one point: The White House owes Americans a full accounting of what happened and who was responsible. White House officials need to be forthcoming about what they know and what is still to be determined.

Remember a central lesson from the 9/11 Commission report: The attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 were possible partly because the United States, under President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush, never fully grasped the danger posed by al-Qaida.

The muted American response to the February 1993 truck bomb attack against the World Trade Center and the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya invited more of the same.

The anti-terror efforts of U.S. agencies "were sometimes energetic and sometimes effective," the report said. "But the United States did not, before 9/11, adopt as a clear strategic objective the elimination of al-Qaida."

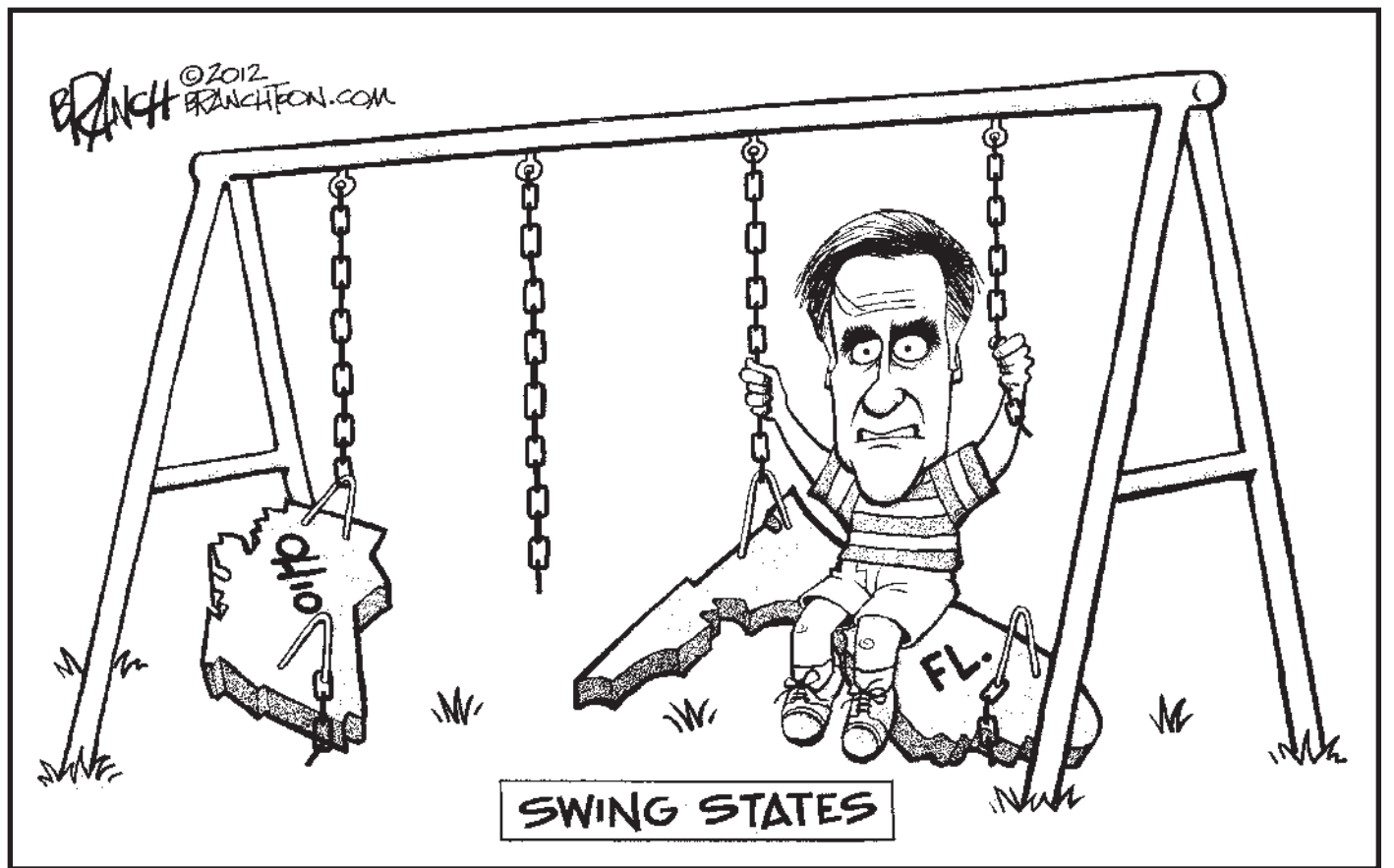
That's how Osama bin Laden figured he and his fellow terrorists could kill Americans without suffering any consequences.

The story has been different since the 2001 attacks. American resolve to defeat al-Qaida has produced an impressive string of now-deceased al-Qaida leaders who learned how tenacious and ingenious a foe they had aroused. Any countries that harbor al-Qaida or its sympathizers also know that America's anti-terror war doesn't stop at their borders. The Obama administration has been strong in its efforts.

Al-Qaida has lost its safe base of operations and many of its top leaders, but it remains dangerous, through sympathizers and affiliates. The key questions about the attack in Libya: Was a U.S. ambassador murdered by an al-Qaida affiliate and, if so, how will the U.S. respond?

It's been a while since we wrote the words war on terror. That's a phrase repeated so often that for some Americans it has lost its power.

Call it what you will, America remains at war with al-Qaida and with terrorists across the globe. This isn't a war that ends neatly with a decisive battle or a strategic withdrawal. Al-Qaida

See **TERROR** on Next Page

## Muslim countries' blasphemy laws empower extremists

**I**t's about time. After a week of anti-American violence in the Muslim world over a video that offends Islam, President Obama finally made a rousing defense of free speech, even if it insults religion.

Following the outburst of outrage in Libya and Egypt, American officials repeatedly deplored the video. There should have been more U.S. outrage over a campaign of violence orchestrated by Islamists and abetted by some Muslim leaders.

In his annual address to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, Obama went a good ways toward setting the record straight.

"We do not ban blasphemy against our most sacred beliefs," Obama said. "Americans have fought and died around the globe to protect the right of all people to express their views — even views we disagree with."

"We do so," he went on, "because in a diverse society, efforts to restrict speech can become a tool to silence critics or oppress minorities." He added, "On this we must agree: There is no speech that justifies mindless violence."

Sadly, this is a message key Muslim leaders haven't grasped.

Indeed, both Egypt and Pakistan, the two countries where the most widespread violence was incited in the name of the anti-Islam video, have blasphemy laws that are frequently used to pursue vendettas, target minorities, and curb free speech.

Yet in Pakistan, where the notorious law is most draconian, Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has called on the United Nations to adopt blasphemy laws outlawing criticism of religion worldwide. He'd do better to confront the disastrous impact of Pakistan's blasphemy law at home.

Just recently, a 14-year-old mentally impaired Christian Pakistani girl, Rimsha Masih, was imprisoned after being accused by a neighbor of burning pages of a children's religious book. It turned out that a village cleric who wanted to drive Christians out of the village had fabricated evidence. The case became so notorious, the charges may ultimately be dropped. But about 600 of her Christian neighbors had to flee out of fear of reprisals, and she probably can't ever go home lest vigilantes kill her.

Indeed, the governor of Punjab, Salman Taseer, and Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, a Christian, were killed last year after criticizing the apostasy law in another case involving a poor Christian woman who is still rotting in prison. "Anyone can file a complaint, so there are often ulterior motives for bringing charges," says the Hudson Institute's Nina Shea, co-author of "Silenced: How Apostasy and Blasphemy Codes Are Choking Freedom Worldwide."

Shea says thousands of such cases have been brought since the 1980s. Since Islam covers most issues of ordinary life, apostasy charges can be brought for innumerable reasons, including personal quarrels; the accused can't get bail and may receive the death sentence.

In one notorious case in 2000, a medical professor in Islamabad offended a Pakistani military officer with something he said in a lecture and was suddenly accused of blasphemy. After being held for more than three years, he was finally released, perhaps because

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.



he became an Amnesty International prisoner of conscience. Many others aren't so lucky.

"The law empowers extremists within the society," says Shea. Adds the courageous Pakistani parliamentarian Farahnaz Ispahani: "Government after Pakistani government has appeased the extremists, who use the blasphemy laws to stir up the public and enhance their own political power."

Blasphemy laws also threaten to muzzle speech in post-Arab Spring governments, especially those where Islamic parties hold power. In Egypt, the actor Adel Imam was cleared of defaming Islam on Sept. 12, the day after the anti-video protests started. His alleged crimes: his film roles, including one in which he played a corrupt businessman that contained a scene parodying bearded Muslim men, and a second, called Terrorism and Kebab, in which good-hearted Egyptians challenge corrupt bureaucrats. If he hadn't been so famous, he might be doing time.

Earlier this year, two courts rejected blasphemy cases against a Christian media mogul who had formed the leading opposition party. His alleged crime: He tweeted a cartoon of Mickey Mouse with a beard and Minnie with a veil.

This might seem funny if it weren't so serious. Egypt's new president, Mohammed Morsi, who hails from the Muslim Brotherhood, clearly has a limited understanding of free speech. He just instructed his Washington embassy to bring legal charges against the California videomaker and may be indifferent to the dangers of blasphemy laws.

In the words of the late, great Indonesian Muslim scholar and political leader Abdurrahman Wahid, blasphemy laws "narrow the bounds of acceptable discourse in the Islamic world and prevent most Muslims from thinking 'outside the box,' not only about religion but also about vast spheres of life, literature, science, and culture in general."

Even more to the point, attempts by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, or any U.N. bodies, to promote a legally binding global ban on criticism of Islam (or all religions) are out of order. They should be roundly opposed by Obama and other Western leaders. Advocates of one religion can't put a muzzle on free speech worldwide.

As Obama said Tuesday, "The strongest weapon against hateful speech is not repression, it is more speech—the voices of tolerance that rally against bigotry and blasphemy, and lift up the values of understanding and mutual respect."



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Red Smiles

**By JAIME R. VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.



**W**e lined up a few celebrations the last 10 days. First, our university observed its 60th year anniversary last Sept. 22. An aerospace university, one might think someone was pulling our leg. After all, China's space program did not start until 1956. And the space station (Tiangong) went up only in 2011.

Aerospace is a relatively new term, combining aeronautics and astronautics. Shenyang, one of five aerospace cities in China, combined technical schools' aero-astro nautical disciplines and formed a university administered by Liaoning Province.

The university's celebration was not technologically centered as it was on the faculty, administrators, and students. The space program's logo has the character for "human" on top of the three thrusts (thrust out of earth gravity, thrust outside of earth's gravity, and thrust returning to earth's gravity) to signify that the nation's space exploration is for the sake of humans.

We teach Oral English, and while the foreign language department clearly serves the technical colleges, we do have an Economics and a Social Science department where students in finances, human resource, management, international trade, etc. receive our

humanities-bent pedagogy in English speaking. We do not seem to be too far off target. In a small way, we are out to ensure that the human factor is a lively component in China's development, aerospace and otherwise.

A private note: Mama Lucring birthed us into humankind, reaching her 92nd year last week. Now bed-ridden, she finally moved into my sister's home in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. Her mental faculties were relatively intact during my last visit early this year in her apartment, so we sent her the red paper rose ribbon pinned on awardees on Teachers' Day two weeks ago.

Last Friday commenced a weeklong holiday. Students were dismissed early so travelers can start their journeys home. Some students ride the rails for 30 hours or more to their destinations. The Mooncake Festival on Sept. 30 is one of two holidays (the other is the Lunar New Year) when families gather. These are the two times of the year when China literally moves.

Shi Yi, Oct. 1, follows on the heels of mooncakes. It is the national day launched after 1949 when Mao Zedong's Gong Chan Dang (CPC) prevailed over ChangKaiShek's nationalist Kuomintang. The university's 60th anniversary fluttered with red flags and banners. Red is the color of celebration (not a political symbol, the color that a bride wears to join her groom, now replaced by the white gown for the photo-op, per Elle, et al), and seeing red does not connote anger but a wish for peace and wellbeing.

We were given a red invitation to attend SAU's anniversary program but knowing that the speeches were in Putunghua that we do not understand, and of endless repetition of slogans and clichés (not dissimilar to the send out a supervising official receives when embarking on a field inspection journey, a colleague cynically observed), we cracked our pomegranate in the park and fingered its seeds, instead, as we let the first chills of autumn sip into our bones, a few days before digging out our long johns again.

China is taking its national day more seriously this year, com-

pared to last year. It has been battered this presidential election year from both parties, though the U.S. economy had not been bashful in indicating that more investments in the dollar would not be unappreciated!

China has been expected to bail out failing economies, and when she would not come across in the manner that economists prescribed (i.e., appreciate the renminbi), it got flayed and assailed. With a foreign relations' policy of harmony, China took all the insults with a grain of Sino-grin, until Nippon (Riben) unilaterally bought the Senkaku islands (Diaoyu) that is on record as belonging to and formally claimed by China since 1971.

Well, all hell did not break loose, but a university in Xi'an had to close its doors and keep its students on campus as anti-Japanese sentiments began to boil. That this happened close to the national "do not forget the day of humiliation" of Sept. 18 in Mukden was no help. Boycott of Japanese products has been widespread and existing tours to Japan canceled. Still, tuned to the Beijing Olympics theme song of *You and Me*, "we are one family", China on Oct. 1 is intent in keeping harmony and balance together, especially within its domestic households.

The starred red flag has since been added to our lampposts and is waving everywhere. At the department store near our campus, all shelves, and every aisle has one sticking out to commemorate the occasion. Patriotism might have crossed the line when the lingerie section stuck one on a silky lacy thing that covers unmentionables, but, hey, if it does the job, so be it! (Might have been the work of a naughty customer!)

Almost ready to hand over to the next generation the reins of political power, Hu Jintao, Wen Jiabao & Co., are intent in keeping things together. Even as China suffers the burden of a global recession, the East continues to wear a red smile.

We say, for all that has been, celebrate. Of all that will be, anticipate. In the full depth, breath, height, and weight of today, participate.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A GOP Congress and our choice

I want to thank Sen. Paul Manglona for announcing the obvious power that the GOP will have in Congress and the need for the continuance of the federal government-wide funding for fiscal year 2013 at the same level as 2012. I informed voters just last month that the GOP would be the majority in Congress and now the senator confirms it—thanks senator. It doesn't take a political scientist to see that our choice to send a person to Congress will be important and even paramount. The GOP-controlled Congress can either positively or adversely affect us, depending on our choice—it is really that simple. Our choice has clearly been made simple by the senator's admonishments about the GOP, as he proved we need to send someone who is a member of the GOP to change their minds—a scientific fact! I'm sure commonsense is telling most voters that if the GOP is the majority that our best chance is to have someone on the GOP Team, especially when we only have a nonvoting delegate.

Thanks to the senator we can get a glimpse of congressional politics that are almost predetermined long before events happen using the favorite tool of political scientists—polls. The same type of polls that Dr. Demapan wants to implement for our voters. Voters don't have to guess who will be the best person in a GOP-controlled Congress, the

senator just told us in so many words with his warning because he must know it will be almost a useless fight for a nonvoting Democrat in a Republican run Congress. Sending a member of the GOP to help convince the majority to keep federal government-wide funding in place and to even do more for the CNMI is indeed our best chance. There is only one person in a genuine position to help the CNMI with the GOP and that is Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Tudela Demapan for true.

Everyone is given a high level of respect in Congress but the members of the U.S. Congress do not care who we like here in the CNMI they care about their goals for their constituents and their party members on their team. The senator's admonishments also offer more proof to my own admonishments about the CNMI learning to play the political game with Guam and in Congress when voting for our delegate. Sending a Democrat delegate to Washington is not going to do much good, especially when Kilili will be second in the pecking order to Guam's senior delegate—a true political fact. Whenever Guam's delegate and our delegate are in opposition over something Guam will always have the edge over us on the Democrat side of the House but if we have a GOP delegate the CNMI will be in a much better position to counter Guam's politics to our favor in Congress—a true example of this political phenomenon is the Monument, which no one can deny. This is another great example of why I have been saying all along that Dr. Demapan is the best candidate for Congress in almost every category, except experience, which is something every first time Congress person had to acquire including our present delegate. So I don't put too much stock in this category, especially when Dr. Demapan is a Ph.D holder who is more than capable of performing the task of a congressperson.

I noticed that Kilili finally did some donating to Mt. Carmel after I mentioned his nonexistent record for donating and sponsorship. But Dr. Demapan had already put in her platform a pledge to donate up to \$10,000 of her earnings a year to community projects and she will also be asking her staff to contribute yearly. Dr. Demapan is truly running to make a difference in the CNMI and in Washington. The community projects will be her personal pet projects for helping our youth and the community.

We can't afford for this election to be another "popularity contest" for Congress as this is very serious business and we voters must send the person who offers the people the best chance for success. One people one direction for making the right choice to play the power and party game of politics in Congress to win—vote for Dr. "Acha" Demapan to be our new star player so we can be real winners in Congress where it counts the most for true! If someone still wants to attack me for telling the truth I'm ready to forgive you but you need to know my Forgiveness won't make you right, but it will set me free!

PS: I have often used Ebonics in my writing and thought readers might need to know it. For those who don't know or wonder why I use the term "for true" is an Ebonics language term used by slaves to imply that something is really, really true beyond any doubts. I'm sharing this because I wonder if readers have ever noticed that I have never been accused of lying in my letters. I have said things some didn't like and I've been attacked for everything but the right thing—so voters please take note that when I say for true that it really is true!

**Ambrose M. Bennett**  
Kagman

## Medicare to the rescue

The unscheduled inspection of the CNMI's only hospital by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services could not have come at a better time. The place is in a shambles, as the oversize headline of one paper put it, yet there's no sign that anyone is concerned, that any action is underway to resolve the situation, that there's even a plan for how to fix its many problems.

Hopefully, the findings from Medicare and Medicaid officials will be scary enough to force the powers that be to act—and act fast—to begin to restore sanity to the operation of the hospital. That may, in turn, make a shambles of the budget, but the proposed budget—however it is put together—isn't much more than a fantasy in any case.

It would appear that the first thing that is needed is to replace CHC's CEO—to put someone in there who knows how to administer an agency. The second thing is to replace the board's chairman, and put someone in there who is able to put a concern for CHC above a concern for his ego. These steps are up to the governor's office.

The third step is to pull the private medical providers together and

ask their assistance in keeping the hospital functioning until it can build its own staff again. It would be in the interests of the private medical providers to do so, one would think, since they make use of the hospital and its services for their own patients. This, too, in the absence of a functioning CEO, would be up to the governor's office.

Next, and this would be up to the House, would be to identify and turnover to CHC enough funding to allow it to operate. Likely sources of funding: de-activating the many offices of special advisor to the governor, cutting the Legislature's generous allowances, an across-the-board cut of all government agency budgets. The latter may be drastic, but not nearly as drastic as is a non-functioning hospital and medical services center.

It is inconceivable that the powers that be have allowed the hospital to reach its present stage of non-service, where foods are not available for patients, chemicals are not available for blood tests, instruments are not available for diagnoses, where even doctors and nurses and x-ray technicians are not available, when the hospital is the only source of medical care for so many of the people on island.

As the coconut wireless has it, the problems have been building for some time, but clearly the magic math that said \$5 million was enough to operate on as a "private" corporation when it took \$38

million to function as a government operation was the crowning blow. Though a true private corporation may still be the best answer for the CNMI's hospital, this version clearly isn't working.

And if the governor doesn't take immediate action to begin to correct the problems Medicare and Medicaid will have found, that's one more impeachable act the legislative committee can add to its list—the endangerment of the lives of everyone in the CNMI.

**Ruth Tighe**  
Tanapag

## TERROR

From Page 10

and its ilk are patient. Terrorists probe for vulnerabilities, exploit opportunities to kill Americans. Those who plotted and carried out this fierce attack on the American Consulate in Benghazi will be waiting and watching. They may hope for a slackening of American resolve. Let them be disappointed.






(c)2012 Chicago Tribune



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80

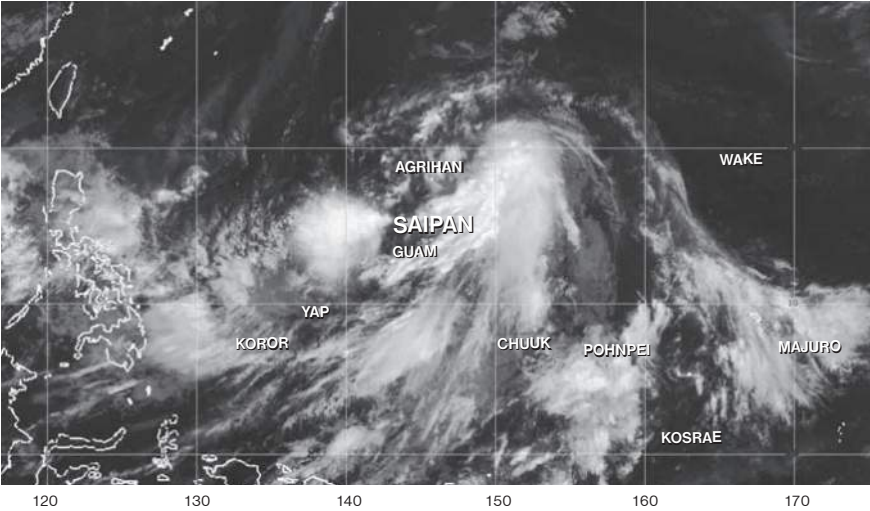
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲61 ▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼54
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲85 ▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲100 ▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲71 ▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼76
New York	Sunny	▲73 ▼58
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼65
Paris	Showers	▲65 ▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼62
Salem	Sunny	▲83 ▼50
San Francisco	Sunny	▲87 ▼61
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼55
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼64

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 20W is centered 150 miles north of Saipan near 17N146E moving west-northwestward at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are in an area east of Guam and northeast of Saipan between 10N and 20N from 146E to 153E. For more information on Tropical Depression 20W, see bulletins issued by Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and advisories issued by National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 12N130E to 11N137E then northeastward to Tropical Depression 20W at 17N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Koror are west of a line from 10N131E to 7N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Yap and west of Guam are within 150 miles of a line from 11N133E to 15N143 and south of Guam to near Chuuk between the equator and 10N from 140E to 152E. A tropical disturbance near Pohnpei is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 9N from 155E to 161E. Trade winds converging across the Marshall Islands are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area from 15N161E to 11N180 to 7N180 to 3N168 back to 15N161E. An early season shear line extends southwestward from 25N137E to beyond 18N130E with scattered showers along and up to 80 miles northwest of the shear line.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:23 PM	7:32 AM
Wednesday	8:06 PM	8:22 AM
Thursday	8:50 PM	9:11 AM
Friday	9:37 PM	10:01 AM
Saturday	10:25 PM	10:50 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
				UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
				OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN				
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Why US economy is flashing conflicting signals

WASHINGTON (AP)—Anyone puzzled by the most recent U.S. economic data has reason for feeling so: The numbers sketch a sometimes contradictory picture of the economy.

We've learned that:

Consumers are more confident but aren't spending much. Fewer people are losing jobs, but not many are being hired. Home and stock prices are up, but workers' pay is trailing inflation. Auto sales have jumped, but manufacturing is faltering.

This is what an economy stuck in a slow-growth rut can look like, and it's a focal point of the presidential campaign. The U.S. economy grew at a scant 1.3 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter—too weak to reduce high unemployment. And most economists foresee little if any improvement the rest of the year.

Many Americans are reducing debt loads instead of spending freely. Builders are borrowing less and constructing homes at a modest pace. Businesses are being cautious about hiring and expanding.

In the long run, reduced debts and rising home and stock prices will help rebuild household wealth, boost consumer spending and spur job growth. But it's taking time.

"The U.S. outlook could best be described as one of near-term weakness and long-term strength," says Chris Jones, an economist at TD Bank.

Here are some of the mixed signals recent economic reports have sent with the election now five weeks away:

### ■ HOUSING

After plunging when the housing bubble burst, home prices are finally rising steadily, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index. The index rose in July compared with a year earlier. That was the second straight year-over-year gain. Still, the annual pace of new-home sales dipped in August from a two-year high in July. At the same time, sales were nearly 28 percent above the level a year earlier.

**The Good News:** For most Americans, a home is their most valuable asset. As its value increases, homeowners grow wealthier and typically feel more confident. That tends to spark more consumer spending—the U.S. economy's main fuel. Rising prices also lead more people to sell homes, further energizing the housing market. More sales would likely spur further homebuilding.

**The Bad News:** Home construction now plays too small a role in the economy to provide much lift. It made up only 2.4 percent of the economy in the April-June quarter. That compares with a peak of 6.3 percent at the end of 2005 and a longer-run average of just under 5 percent. "Housing would therefore need to be on steroids to provide a major boost to growth," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

**Looking Ahead:** Record-low mortgage rates are likely to keep homes affordable. The Federal Reserve's decision to spend \$40 billion on mortgage bonds each month until the recovery accelerates should keep rates low and increase home sales. Rising builder confidence also suggests that construction will keep growing. But many Americans lack the credit to qualify for a mortgage. Or they can't afford the larger down payments now required.

### ■ CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

Americans are feeling better about the economy despite chronically weak job gains and pay levels that lag inflation. The private Conference Board's index of consumer confidence is at a seven-month peak. A survey of consumer sentiment by the University of Michigan has reached its second-highest point in nearly five years. Both surveys found that consumers are lukewarm about current economic conditions but more optimistic about the future.

**The Good News:** When consumers are confident, they're generally more likely to spend. Both surveys also found that consumers expect hiring to pick up.

**The Bad News:** You can't spend confidence. Rising confidence doesn't always lead to higher

spending. And when an economy is healthy, consumer confidence is usually much higher than it is now.

**Looking Ahead:** Without more hiring and stronger pay raises, the recent gains in consumer confidence might not last.

### ■ BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

Businesses appear to be less confident than consumers. A survey of chief executives of large U.S. companies has found their outlook to be at its most pessimistic level since the fall of 2009—just after the recession officially ended. Orders for long-lasting factory goods plummeted in August. In part, that reflects Europe's financial and economic crises, which have reduced demand for U.S. exports. Six European countries are in recession. More are expected to follow.

**The Good News:** A plunge in orders for commercial aircraft caused most of the drop in demand for factory goods. That category of orders fluctuates from month to month. It will likely rebound. In the meantime, orders that reflect business investment plans are up.

**The Bad News:** Business spending on equipment and software has been a big source of economic growth in recent years. Orders for such goods have dropped sharply in the past three months, threatening to further slow U.S. growth.

**Looking Ahead:** Many corporate executives lack confidence in part because of fears that the U.S. economy will fall off a "fiscal cliff" early next year. That's when tax increases and deep spending cuts will take effect unless Congress reaches a budget deal. Those changes could throw the economy into recession. But business spending and hiring could pick up if the budget issues are resolved.

### ■ CONSUMER SPENDING

Americans spent more in August. But that was mainly because they had to pay more for gas and some other items. Adjusted for inflation, consumer spending barely rose in August. That's been true for most of this year.

**The Good News:** Americans were willing to spend more, even if much of it went in the gas tank. Consumers were even willing to save less in order to spend more. That's another sign of confidence.

**The Bad News:** Income failed to keep up with inflation, which is why consumers had to dip into savings. That isn't sustainable for very long. The national average retail price for gas is \$3.79 a gallon, nearly 50 cents higher than in early July and a record for late September. If gas prices stay high, Americans would have less to spend on other goods, from cars and furniture to electronics and vacations, that fuel economic growth.

**Looking Ahead:** Spending will likely grow sluggishly without bigger increases in workers' pay and perhaps a moderation in gas prices.

### ■ JOBS

The number of people applying for unemployment benefits fell sharply in the week ending Sept. 22. That suggests that the weak job market could strengthen. Employers added just 96,000 jobs in August—barely enough to keep up with the growth of the working-age population. The unemployment rate did fall to 8.1 percent from 8.3 percent. But that was because many people gave up looking for work, so they were no longer counted as unemployed.

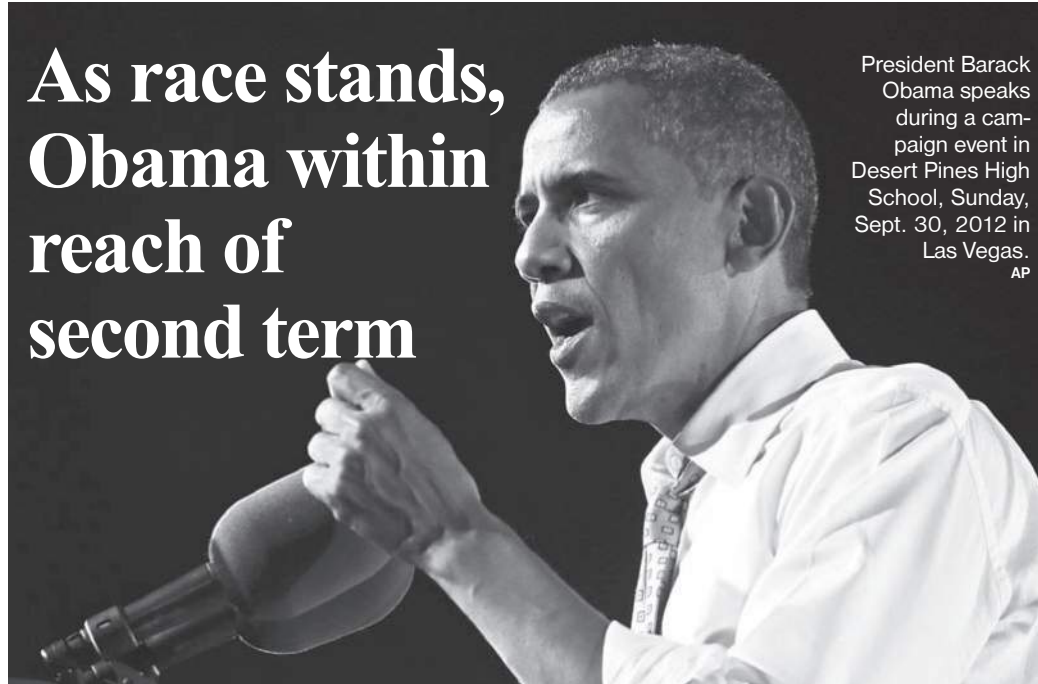
**The Good News:** Weekly applications for unemployment benefits track layoffs. So the drop indicates that companies aren't laying off many people.

**The Bad News:** Falling layoffs aren't translating into healthy job growth. The pace of layoffs in July was the lowest in a decade—even lower than when the economy was booming. Yet employers are hiring at a subpar pace.

**Looking Ahead:** The September jobs report will come out Friday. Economists think the economy will show a modest gain of about 100,000 jobs. Given employers' anxiety about the U.S. fiscal cliff and Europe's economic crisis, few expect a significant pickup in hiring soon.

# Nation

## As race stands, Obama within reach of second term



President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign event in Desert Pines High School, Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012 in Las Vegas. AP

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Five weeks to Election Day, President Barack Obama is within reach of the 270 electoral votes needed to win a second term. Republican Mitt Romney's path to victory is narrowing.

To overtake Obama, Romney would need to quickly gain the upper hand in nearly all of the nine states where he and Obama are competing the hardest.

Polls show the president with a steady lead in many of them as Romney looks to shift the dynamics of the race, starting with their first debate Wednesday in Denver.

"We'd rather be us than them," says Jennifer Psaki, an Obama spokeswoman.

But Romney's running mate Paul Ryan says there's time for the GOP ticket to win. "In these kinds of races people focus near the end, and that's what's happening now," he told "Fox News Sunday."

If the election were held today, an Associated Press analysis shows Obama would win at least 271 electoral votes, with likely victories in crucial Ohio and Iowa along with 19 other states and the District of Columbia. Romney would win 23 states for a total of 206.

To oust the Democratic incumbent, Romney would need to take up-for-grabs Florida, Colorado, Nevada, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Virginia, which would put him at 267 votes, and upend Obama in either Ohio or Iowa.

The AP analysis isn't meant

to be predictive. Rather, it is intended to provide a snapshot of a race that until recently has been stubbornly close in the small number of the most contested states.

It is based on a review of public and private polls, television advertising and numerous interviews with campaign and party officials as well as Republican and Democratic strategists in the competitive states and in Washington.

In the final weeks before the Nov. 6 vote, Obama is enjoying a burst of momentum and has benefited from growing optimism about the economy as well as a series of Romney stumbles. Most notably, a secret video surfaced recently showing the Republican nominee telling a group of donors that 47 percent of Americans consider themselves victims dependent on the government.

To be sure, much could change in the coming weeks, which will feature three presidential and one vice presidential debate. A host of unknowns, both foreign and domestic, could rock the campaign, knocking Obama off course and giving Romney a boost in the homestretch.

Barring that, Romney's challenge is formidable.

Obama started the campaign with a slew of electoral-rich coastal states already in his win column. From the outset, Romney faced fewer paths to cobbling together the state-by-state victories needed to reach the magic number.

It's grown even narrower in

recent weeks, as Romney has seen his standing slip in polls in Ohio, with 18 electoral votes, and Iowa, with six. That forced him to abandon plans to try to challenge Obama on traditionally Democratic turf so he could redouble his efforts in Ohio and Iowa, as well as Colorado, Florida, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Nevada and Virginia.

Romney is hoping that come Election Day, on-the-fence voters tip his way. But there are hurdles there, too.

Early voting is under way in dozens of states, and national and key states surveys show undecided voters feel more favorably toward Obama than Romney.

The Republican is in a tight battle with Obama in Florida, as well as Colorado, North Carolina and Nevada.

But Ohio's shifting landscape illustrates Romney's troubles over the past few weeks.

Republicans and Democrats agree that Obama's solid lead in public and private polling in the state is for real. Over the past month, the president has benefited from an improving economic situation in the state; its 7.2 percent unemployment rate is below the 8.1 percent national average. Obama's team also attributes his Ohio edge to the auto bailout and GM plant expansions in eastern Ohio.

Obama and his campaign have hammered Romney on his tax policies, arguing that the former Massachusetts governor favors the rich while the president as a defender of everyone else.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### SUV slams into packed van in Okla., killing 7

ELMWOOD, Okla. (AP)—An SUV veered across a highway median in the Oklahoma Panhandle early Wednesday and slammed head-on into an oncoming van full of men headed to work at a Texas meatpacking plant, killing both drivers and five of the six van passengers, authorities said. The 2012 Chevy Suburban was moving fast and passed a couple of trucks on U.S. Highway 412 just before it crossed the center line and collided with a 2003 Ford van near Elmwood, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Betsy Randolph said. She said investigators were trying to determine whether the SUV was speeding. "It was pretty horrific," Randolph said. "The lieutenant I talked to said he'd worked in Beaver County for 24 years, and he's never seen anything like that.

When you have that many bodies involved in a crash, it's terrible."

#### RI man wins \$15,500 with 1-ton pumpkin

TOPSFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Organizers of a fair in northeastern Massachusetts claim a Rhode Island man has set a new world record with the first pumpkin ever to weigh more than a ton. Leaders of the Topsfield Fair say the huge gourd grown by Ron Wallace of Greene, R.I., tipped the scales at 2,009 pounds on Friday, winning him \$5,500 for first place and another \$10,000 as a bonus for breaking the one-ton mark. The Guinness World Record for heaviest pumpkin is 1,810.5 pounds set by Chris Stevens of New Richmond, Wis., at the Stillwater Harvest Fest in Stillwater, Minn., in October 2010.



# Asia

## US military deaths in Afghanistan hit 2,000

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—The killing of an American serviceman in an exchange of fire with allied Afghan soldiers pushed U.S. military deaths in the war to 2,000, a cold reminder of the perils that remain after an 11-year conflict that now garners little public interest at home.

The toll has climbed steadily in recent months with a spate of attacks by Afghan army and police—supposed allies—against American and NATO troops. That has raised troubling questions about whether countries in the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan will achieve their aim

of helping the government in Kabul and its forces stand on their own after most foreign troops depart in little more than two years.

“The tally is modest by the standards of war historically, but every fatality is a tragedy and 11 years is too long,” said Michael O’Hanlon, a fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington. “All that is internalized, however, in an American public that has been watching this campaign for a long time. More newsworthy right now are the insider attacks and the sense of hopelessness they convey to many.”

Attacks by Afghan soldiers or police—or insurgents disguised in their uniforms—have killed 52 American and other NATO troops so far this year.

“We have to get on top of this. It is a very serious threat to the campaign,” the U.S. military’s top officer, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, said about the insider threat.

The top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, was blunter.

“I’m mad as hell about them, to be honest with you,” Allen told CBS’ “60 Minutes” in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday.



In this file photograph made on July 29, 2010, upon landing after a helicopter rescue mission, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Hedglin, right, an Air Force Pararescueman, or PJ, drapes an American flag over the remains of the first of two U.S. soldiers killed minutes earlier in an IED attack, assisted by fellow PJs, Senior Airman Robert Dieguez, center, and 1st Lt. Matthew Carlisle, in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan.

## Pakistan: In twist, Muslims accused of blasphemy

**KARACHI, Pakistan** (AP)—Pakistan’s blasphemy laws may be used to punish Muslims suspected of ransacking a Hindu temple, an intriguing twist for a country where harsh laws governing religious insults are primarily used against supposed offenses to Islam, not minority faiths.

The blasphemy laws, sections of which carry the death penalty or life imprisonment, have drawn renewed international scrutiny this year after a young Christian girl in Islamabad was alleged to have desecrated the Muslim holy book, the Quran. A Muslim cleric now stands ac-

cused of fabricating evidence against the girl, who has been freed on bail and whose mental capacity has been questioned.

Police officer Mohammad Hanif said Sunday the anti-Hindu attack took place Sept. 21. The government had declared that day a national holiday—a “Day of Love for the Prophet”—and called for peaceful demonstrations against an anti-Islam film made in the U.S. that has sparked protests throughout the Muslim world. Those rallies took a violent turn in Pakistan, and more than 20 people were killed.

Hanif said dozens of Mus-

lims led by a cleric converged on the outskirts of Karachi in a Hindu neighborhood commonly known as Hindu Goth. The protesters attacked the Sri Krishna Ram temple, broke religious statues, tore up a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, a Hindu scripture, and beat up the temple’s caretaker, Sindha Maharaj.

“The attackers broke the statues of (Hindu deities) Radha, Hanuman, Parwati and Krishna, and took away the decorative gold ornaments,” Maharaj said. “They also stormed my home and snatched the gold jewelry of my family, my daughters.”

# World

## Wave of bombings across Iraq leaves 26 dead

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—A series of coordinated bombings shattered Shiite neighborhoods and struck at Iraqi security forces Sunday, killing at least 26 in attacks that one official described as a rallying call by al-Qaida just days after dozens of militants escaped from prison.

The blasts brought September’s death toll from sectarian violence to nearly 200 people - a grim, above-average monthly total for the period since U.S. troops left last year. The steady pace of attacks has worked to undermine confidence in the government.

“The people are fed up with the killings in Iraqi cities,” said Ammar Abbas, 45, a Shiite and government employee who lives in a Baghdad neighborhood near one of the bombings. “The government officials should feel shame for letting their people die at the hands of terrorists.”

Police said the wave of explosions stretched from the res-

tive but oil-rich city of Kirkuk in the north to the southern Shiite town of Kut, wounding at least 94 people. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but bombings are a hallmark of al-Qaida in Iraq, the Sunni insurgency that has been struggling for years to goad Shiite militias back toward civil war.

A key Shiite lawmaker said the bombings likely sought to galvanize al-Qaida in the wake of a prison break last Friday in Saddam Hussein’s northern hometown of Tikrit. Scores of inmates escaped—including as many as 47 convicted al-Qaida militants—in a massive security lapse that the government acknowledged had help from inside.

“Al-Qaida leaders have no intention of leaving this country or letting Iraqis live in peace,” said Hakim al-Zamili, a Shiite member of parliament’s security committee. “The jailbreak in Tikrit has boosted al-Qaida’s morale in

Iraq and thus we should expect more attacks in the near future.”

“The situation in Iraq is still unstable,” al-Zamili added. “And repetition of such attacks shows that our security forces are still unqualified to deal with the terrorists.”

Spokesmen for the government and Baghdad’s military command could not immediately be reached for comment.

Sunday’s deadliest attack struck the town of Taji, a former al-Qaida stronghold just north of Baghdad. Police said three explosive-rigged cars in a Shiite neighborhood went off within minutes of each other, killing eight and wounding 28 in back-to-back blasts that began around 7:15 a.m.

At almost the same time, in Baghdad, police said a suicide bomber set off his explosives-packed car in the northwest Shiite neighborhood of Shula. One person was killed and seven wounded. Police could not immediately identify the target.

## Syria suicide blast kills 4 at security compound

**BEIRUT** (AP)—A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb near a Syrian security compound in a remote, predominantly Kurdish town Sunday, killing at least four people, state media said, in a new sign that the country’s largest ethnic minority might be drawn into a widening civil war.

Opposition activists said at least eight Syrian intelligence agents were killed and several dozen people wounded in the attack in the northeastern town of Qamishli, more than 700 kilometers (435 miles) from the capital Damascus.

Syria’s more than 2 million Kurds, long marginalized, have largely stayed out of the fighting, though some have participated in protests against the regime of President Bashar Assad.

The uprising against Assad that erupted 18 months ago

has gradually morphed into a bloody civil war. The conflict has killed more than 30,000 people, activists say, and has devastated entire neighborhoods in Syria’s main cities, including Aleppo, the scene of intense fighting Sunday.

The leaders of Turkey and Egypt, among Assad’s main foreign foes, sent stern warnings to the regime and its allies, in speeches to Turkey’s ruling party.

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi said that “we will be on the side of the Syrian people until the bloodshed ends, the cruel regime is gone and Syrian people reach their just rights.”

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged Syria’s allies Russia, China and Iran to end their support for Assad, warning that “history will not forgive those who stand together with cru-

el regimes.”

Turkey has given shelter to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and Turkish soil has served as a crucial logistical center for rebel fighters since they captured several Syrian border crossings with Turkey over the summer.

Also over the summer, Syrian troops left several towns and villages in the Kurdish northeast, possibly to divert forces to overstretched troops fighting in hotspots elsewhere. The regime ceded de facto control to Kurdish fighters who began exercising a degree of autonomy unheard of before.

However, the regime has maintained a security presence in Qamishli, which abuts the Turkish border, said Rami Abdul-Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### UN urges protection for elderly as world grays

**TOKYO** (AP)—The U.N. Population Fund has urged governments to build safety nets to ensure that older people have income security and access to essential health and social services as the world’s elderly population grows. The U.N. agency said discrimination toward and poverty among the aged are still far too prevalent in many countries. It released its report Monday in Tokyo, capital of the world’s fastest-aging

country. The problem is worst for women, whose access to jobs and health care is limited, along with their rights to own and inherit property, it said.

#### Moscow court to hear Pussy Riot appeal

**MOSCOW** (AP)—A Russian court is set to hear an appeal filed by three jailed members of the rock band Pussy Riot, who have been sentenced to two years for performing a “punk prayer” against President Vladimir Putin at Moscow’s main cathedral. A day before Monday’s hearing, the

Russian Orthodox Church said the rockers would deserve mercy if they offer repentance for their stunt. The move followed a statement by the Russian premier, who said that keeping them in prison any longer would be “unproductive.” The calls reflected an apparent desire by both the government and the church to put an end to the case, which has caused international outrage. It remained unclear whether the women would offer penitence sought by the church and how much leniency a court may show.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Fiery crash in China kills 5 Germans, 1 Chinese

**BEIJING** (AP)—A Chinese state news agency says five Germans and a Chinese citizen were killed when their bus burst into flames after hitting the back of a truck on an expressway near Tianjin in northern China. Xinhua News Agency said Monday’s accident happened on the expressway that links the port city of Tianjin with the capital Beijing. It says 14 people were hurt but it did not give their nationalities or any other details. Photos online showed the tourist bus engulfed in flames and black smoke.

#### Landslide sweeps vehicles off Nepal highway; 4 die

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP)—An official in Nepal says a landslide has swept several vehicles off a mountain highway. Four people are confirmed dead and nine others have been reported missing. Government administrator Purushottam Ghimire says the landslide Sunday night swept away five vehicles traveling on the Mechi highway near Kilbung village in eastern Nepal. He says eight people have been rescued, four bodies have been pulled out and people remain missing.



Focus

Quitting driving: Families key but docs have role

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Families may have to watch for dings in the car and plead with an older driver to give up the keys—but there’s new evidence that doctors could have more of an influence on one of the most wrenching decisions facing a rapidly aging population.

A large study from Canada found that when doctors warn patients, and tell driving authorities, that the older folks may be medically unfit to be on the road, there’s a drop in serious crash injuries among those drivers.

The study, in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine, couldn’t tell if the improvement was because those patients drove less, or drove more carefully once the doctors pointed out the risk.

But as the number of older drivers surges, it raises the question of how families and doctors could be working together to determine if and when age-related health problems—from arthritis to frailty to Alzheimer’s disease—are bad enough to impair driving.

Often, families are making that tough choice between safety and independence on their own. “It’s very scary,” said Pat Sneller of Flower Mound, Texas, who talked her husband, Lee, into quitting about a year after he was diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer’s disease.

The couple had recently moved from California, one of the few U.S. states that require doctors to report drivers with worrisome health conditions to licensing authorities. Pat Sneller was stunned to learn Texas doesn’t require that doctor involvement, and health workers advised her to ride with her husband and judge his abilities for herself.

Eventually her husband called home in a panic, lost while driving in unfamiliar Dallas for volunteer work. A long scrape on the car that he couldn’t explain was the final straw. In 2010, she persuaded him to quit driving, although the now-72-year-old’s license remains good until 2014.

“He still says occasionally, ‘I can still drive, you know,’” Pat Sneller said.

By one U.S. estimate, about 600,000 older drivers a year quit because of health conditions. The problem: There are no clear-cut guidelines to tell who really needs to—and given the lack of transportation options in much of the country, quitting too soon can be detrimental for someone who might have functioned well for several more years.

It’s never an easy discussion. “It did not go over so well,” Benjamin Benson recalls of the time when his sons told the 87-year-old they feared his reflexes had slowed too much for safe driving.

“I’ve never had an accident,”

the Peabody, Mass., man said. His family’s response: “Well, do you want to wait for the first one?”

The retired accountant wasn’t ready to quit then, but he quietly began to analyze what would happen to him and his wife, who doesn’t drive, if he did.

His longtime doctor wouldn’t advise one way or the other. So over a few months, the couple tried online grocery shopping. They took a taxi to the dentist, not cheap at \$38 round-trip. But Benson calculated that maintaining and insuring the car was expensive, too, when he drove only 3,000 miles a year.

A few weeks ago, Benson surprised his family by giving away the car, and he says he’s faring fine so far.

“Most people in our age group know that it’s inevitable and play around with the idea that it’s going to come and the only question is when,” Benson said. “I didn’t want to be pushed into it.”

Unlike in most of the U.S., doctors in much of Canada are supposed to report to licensing authorities patients with certain health conditions that may impair driving. Ontario in 2006 began paying doctors a small fee to further encourage that step—and researchers used the payments to track 100,075 patients who received those warnings between April of that year and December 2009 (out of the province’s more than 9 million licensed drivers).

They compared the group’s overall rate of crashes severe enough to send the driver to the emergency room, before the warnings began and afterward, and found a 45 percent drop, reported lead researcher Dr.

Donald Redelmeier, a University of Toronto professor. While the study included adult drivers of all ages - for conditions ranging from epilepsy to sleep disorders, alcoholism to dementia - most were over age 60. A small percentage of the province’s licensed drivers have received warnings, Redelmeier stressed, and licenses are suspended by authorities between 10 percent and 30 percent of the time.

His study highlighted one reason physicians don’t like to get involved: About 1 in 5 of the patients who were warned changed doctors. There also was an uptick in reports of depression.

Doctors aren’t trained to evaluate driving ability, and the study couldn’t tell if some drivers were targeted needlessly, noted Dr. Matthew Rizzo of the University of Iowa. Yet he called the research valuable.

“The message from this paper is that doctors have some wisdom in knowing when to restrict drivers,” said Rizzo. His own research shows some cognitive tests might help them better identify who’s at risk, such as by measuring “useful field of view,” essentially how much your brain gleams at a glance - important for safety in intersections.

Today, the American Medical Association recommends that doctors administer a few simple tests in advising older drivers. Among them:

-Walk 10 feet down the hallway, turn around and come back. Taking longer than 9 seconds is linked to driving problems.

-On a page with the letters A to L and the numbers 1 to 13 randomly arranged, see how quickly and accurately you

draw a line from 1 to A, then to 2, then to B and so on. This so-called trail-making test measures memory, spatial processing and other brain skills, and doing poorly has been linked to at-fault crashes.

-Check if people can turn their necks far enough to change lanes, and have the strength to slam on brakes.

Dr. Gary Kennedy, geriatric psychiatry chief at New York’s Montefiore Medical Center, often adds another question: Are his patients allowed to drive their grandchildren?

“If the answer to that is no, that’s telling me the people who know the patient best have made a decision that they’re not safe,” said Kennedy, who offers “to be the bad cop” for families or primary care physicians having trouble delivering the news.

There are no statistics on how often doctors do these kinds of assessment.

“It’s this touchy subject that nobody wants to talk about,” said Dr. Marian Betz of the University of Colorado, whose surveys show most senior drivers don’t think their doctors know whether they drive. She is testing if an advance directive would help get older adults talking with their doctors about how

to keep watch on their driving fitness before trouble arises.

More objective measures are needed—and to help find them, hundreds of older drivers are letting scientists install video cameras, GPS systems and other gadgets in their cars as part of massive studies of everyday driving behavior.

Identifying who needs to quit should be a last resort, said Jon Antin of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. He helps oversee data collection for a study that’s enrolling 3,000 participants, including hundreds of seniors, in Florida, Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Washington. The drivers undergo a battery of medical checks before their driving patterns are recorded for 12 to 24 months.

“If you identify people at risk, maybe you can intervene to prolong the safe driving period,” agreed Dr. Shawn Marshall of the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. He helps lead Canada’s Can-Drive II, a project that’s tracking 928 drivers in their 70s for five years, to see how their driving changes as they get older.

For now, advocacy groups like the Alzheimer’s Association and AARP offer programs to help families spot signs of

driving problems and determine how to talk about it.

“I would like to think that my husband would say, ‘You really shouldn’t be driving anymore’ and I wouldn’t get mad at him,” said Sally Harris, 75, of Crystal Lake, Ill., who took AARP’s “We Need to Talk” program in hopes of broaching the subject with a 90-year-old friend who’s having driving problems.

Others turn to driver rehabilitation specialists, occupational therapists who can spend up to four hours evaluating an older driver’s vision, memory, cognition and other abilities before giving him a behind-the-wheel driving test. Some doctors and state licensing authorities order those evaluations, but programs can be hard to find, often have waiting lists and cost several hundred dollars that insurance may not cover.

Having a professional involved can keep family relationships intact, said Pam Bartle, a driver rehab specialist at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital in Wheaton, Ill.

Still, “you could have the sweetest, nicest little old lady and she’ll turn on you on a dime if you tell her she can’t drive,” Bartle said. “It’s a desperate thing for people. They can’t imagine how they’ll manage without driving.”



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**Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (2)**  
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# Life & Style

## Schwarzenegger kept many secrets from wife Maria

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger says his lifelong penchant for secrecy and ability to put his emotions “on deep freeze” led him to keep many secrets from his wife Maria Shriver, eventually causing the dissolution of their marriage when he was forced to admit he fathered a child with the family’s housekeeper years earlier.

Throughout their strained 25-year marriage, Schwarzenegger says he did not want to tell Shriver about crucial life decisions such as major heart surgery and running for California governor because he feared she would overreact and tell her well-connected family and friends.

In his new autobiography, “Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story,” and in an interview airing Sunday on “60 Minutes,” the former California governor acknowledges that his inability to be honest with people has hurt those closest to him.

“That’s the way I handle things. And it always has worked. But, I mean it does not—it’s not the best thing for people around me because I sometimes—some information I just keep to myself,” Schwarzenegger tells reporter Leslie Stahl on “60 Minutes.”



In this Jan. 22, 2011 file photo, Maria Shriver, right, and her husband, actor and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, stand amid family members and other mourners as they leave the funeral Mass for her father, R. Sargent Shriver, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic church in Potomac, Md., just outside Washington.

The former Mr. Universe traces his detachment to his bodybuilding days, where he says emotions make athletes lose.

“So I became an expert in

living in denial,” says the Hollywood action star and former governor.

Schwarzenegger praises Shriver throughout the book as

a partner and friend who was essential to his success, but also admits to keeping her in the dark about many career decisions.

Although he had been toying with the idea of running for governor for more than a year, Schwarzenegger waited until just days before the filing deadline for the 2003 recall to discuss it with Shriver, writing in the book that he “didn’t want endless conversation about it at home.”

Shriver opposed the idea, but was persuaded to soften her stance by her mother, Eunice Shriver, who told her to support her husband’s ambitions, or he might resent her for the rest of his life. Despite that struggle, he also didn’t inform her when he decided to seek a second term, writing that she had to read about it in the newspaper.

“Total Recall” will officially be published Monday. The Associated Press purchased an early copy.

But Schwarzenegger’s biggest secret, the child he had with the family’s housekeeper, became tabloid news last year after he left office. Shriver confronted him during a January 2011 counseling session and he finally acknowledged the boy, Joseph, was his. Schwarzeneg-

See **SECRETS** on Next Page

## ‘Hotel Transylvania’ checks in with \$43M debut

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Adam Sandler’s monster mash-up “Hotel Transylvania” has brought the weekend box office back to life after a late-summer slump.

The animated comedy from Sony Pictures debuted at No. 1 with \$43 million, one of the strongest starts ever for a movie opening in September, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“Hotel Transylvania” set a new high for September debuts in terms of actual dollars, beating the previous record of \$35.7 million for 2002’s “Sweet Home Alabama.” But factoring in today’s higher admission prices, “Sweet Home Alabama” sold more tickets.

This weekend’s box office was further strengthened by a solid No. 2 debut for another Sony release, Bruce Willis and Joseph Gordon-Levitt’s time-travel thriller “Looper,” which took in \$21.2 million.

Hollywood’s overall grosses rose for the first time in a month compared to the same weekend last year. Revenues totaled \$120 million, up 21 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when “Dolphin Tale” led with \$13.9 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

“Sony really kind of saved the day here, turning things around after a full month of less-than-stellar box office,” said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. “The post-summer period didn’t exactly set the world on fire.”

It’s rare for one studio to open two wide releases over the same weekend, but Sony had two movies that complemented each other well without overlapping their audiences.

Locking up the family crowds, the PG-rated “Hotel Transylvania” features Sandler providing the voice of Count Dracula as proprietor of a resort of distribution for Sony.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Hotel Transylvania,” \$43 million (\$8.1 million international).
2. “Looper,” \$21.2 million (\$8.5 million international).
3. “End of Watch,” \$8 million.
4. “Trouble with the Curve,” \$7.5 million.
5. “House at the End of the Street,” \$7.2 million (\$1.5 million international).
6. “Pitch Perfect,” \$5.2 million.
7. “Finding Nemo,” \$4.1 million (\$1.1 million international).
8. “Resident Evil: Retribution,” \$3 million (\$20.7 million international).
9. “The Master,” \$2.75 million.
10. “Won’t Back Down,” \$2.7 million.

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. “Resident Evil: Retribution,” \$20.7 million.
2. “Ted,” \$9.1 million.
- 3 (tie). “Masquerade,” \$9 million.
- 3 (tie). “Les Seigneurs,” \$9 million.
5. “Ice Age: Continental Drift,” \$8.7 million.
6. “Looper,” \$8.5 million.
7. “Hotel Transylvania,” \$8.1 million.
8. “The Bourne Legacy,” \$7.7 million.
9. “Taken 2,” \$6.4 million.
10. “Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted,” \$6.1 million.

catering to Frankenstein, the Wolfman and other monsters.

The R-rated “Looper” pulled in male action fans. Set in 2044, the film stars Gordon-Levitt as a hit man assigned to kill victims sent back in time—including his future self (Bruce Willis).

The previous weekend’s No. 1 movie, Open Road Films’ police story “End of Watch,” fell to No. 3 with \$8 million, raising its domestic total to \$26.2 million.

In narrower release, Universal Pictures’ music tale “Pitch Perfect” opened strongly at No. 6 with \$5.2 million. The movie stars Anna Kendrick as a college freshman who joins an a cappella singing team and livens up the group’s conservative style.

Playing in 335 theaters, “Pitch Perfect” averaged an impressive \$15,560 a cinema. That compared to an average of \$12,840 in 3,349 theaters for “Hotel Transylvania” and \$7,086 in 2,992 cinemas for “Looper.”

The weekend’s other new wide release, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Viola Davis’ school drama “Won’t Back Down,” flopped at No. 10 with \$2.7 million, averaging just \$1,074 in 2,515 theaters. The movie centers on two mothers who organize a campaign to save a failing elementary school.

For Sandler, “Hotel Transylvania” was a return to hit status after his summer dud “That’s My Boy” and so-so results on last year’s comedy “Jack and Jill.”

Sandler’s audience of young males generally has waned as he ages. But Sony, which has released most of his movies, remains eager to stay in the Sandler business.

“I have said that many times, and it still holds in a big way,” said Rory Bruer, head

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Hotel Transylvania 3D			
Friday		7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		7:25	
Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James Genre: Children’s/family • Rated PG			

Hotel Transylvania 2D			
Friday		4:25	
Saturday		4:25	
Sunday		4:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	
Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James Genre: Children’s/family • Rated PG			

DREDD 3D			
Friday		7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		7:15	
Cast: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey Genre: Science fiction, Action • Rated R			

Trouble With The Curve			
Friday		4:05	7:05 9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05 9:40
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05
Cast: Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams Genre: Drama • Rated PG13			

House At The End Of The Street			
Friday		4:10	7:10 9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10 9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10
Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Elisabeth Shue Genre: Thriller • Rated PG13			

DREDD 2D			
Friday		4:15	
Saturday		4:15	
Sunday		4:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	
Cast: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey Genre: Science fiction, Action • Rated R			

Finding Nemo 3D			
Friday		7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		7:00	
Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres Genre: Children’s/family • Rated G			

Resident Evil: Retribution 2D			
Friday		4:30	7:30 10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30 10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30
Cast: Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez Action • Rated R			

Finding Nemo 2D			
Friday		4:00	
Saturday		4:00	
Sunday		4:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	
Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres Genre: Children’s/family • Rated G			

The Odd Life of Timothy Green			
Friday		4:20	7:20 9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20 9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20
Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton Genre: Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG			

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## If you care about our nation, be sure to register to vote

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR READERS: If you like the way things are going, VOTE. If you don't like the way things are going, VOTE. If you have never voted before, VOTE. (Don't be embarrassed by your ignorance—when you get there, they'll show you how.)

If you're not registered to vote and don't know where to register, contact the League of Women Voters, your county registrar's office or your secretary of state's office for details. All are listed in your phone directory or online. The deadlines for registering vary from state to state.

Don't let anything—or anybody—keep you from voting on Tuesday, Nov. 6. It may be the most important thing you will do all year.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a divorced woman for four years. She said in the beginning that she had very little sexual experience because her former husband "had problems," but decided after the divorce to find out what she was missing. She hasn't discussed this in detail, but once in a while she lets out little snippets of information that lead me to believe she was active.

Do I have a right, now that we're engaged, to know how many partners she had since the divorce? She's being evasive about it.

WONDERING WIDOWER

DEAR WONDERING: No, you do not have that "right," because if she answers the question, your next questions will be what are their names, how many times did she sleep with them and were they better than you are in bed. Sometimes it is wiser to leave the past in the past and simply appreciate the special relationship you have with the person you love.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Webbed in Columbia, Md." wondered what kind of spider went up the waterspout (July 8). Well, it depends on the location of that spout. Waterspouts in England, Australia (and I'm guessing Canada) attract spiders that are "incy wincy." American waterspouts are climbed by "itsy bitsy" spiders. (And at this time of year we see really big ones.)

Between English-speaking countries there are also slightly different lyrics for "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Ring Around the Rosie." Because my hubby and I are from opposite sides of the Atlantic "pond," our son is learning multiple versions of many things.

SUNKISSED IN HOUSTON

DEAR SUNKISSED: Readers young and old responded to that letter, and you are correct that it depends upon which side of the pond you hail from. In the United States, it's also "teensy weensy" and "itty bitty." In Switzerland, it's "inky dinky." And then there was the following submission:

DEAR ABBY: The confusion may stem from "Webbed's" family members having confused the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" poem (song) with the "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" song. The spider song I learned in school and the bikini song I heard when my dad belted it out. It made us all laugh. Thanks for the memories.

KAREN IN RENO, NEV.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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Dear Abby

## Official: Man's NYC arrest in Lohan dispute voided

NEW YORK (AP)—A 25-year-old man initially arrested Sunday on an assault charge after Lindsay Lohan claimed he grabbed her in her New York hotel room in an argument over cellphone images was freed hours later and his arrest voided when the charge could not be substantiated, law enforcement officials said.

Instead, Christian LaBella of Valley Village, Calif., and Lohan filed harassment complaints with police against each other after they were interviewed by police about their run-in, law enforcement officials said.

Afterward, Lohan publicist Steve Honig expressed outrage that police did not charge LaBella.

"We think it's both distressing and outrageous," he said in a telephone interview. "Lindsey was assaulted and there needs to be a consequence for that."

LaBella could not be reached for comment.

LaBella was taken into custody about 6 a.m. after a 911 call came from the swank W Hotel in Manhattan's Union Square where Lohan apparently pulled the fire alarm, the two officials



In this April 28, 2012 file photo, Lindsay Lohan attends the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington.

said. The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A former congressional aide, LaBella was arrested on a misdemeanor assault charge but released later Sunday. The charge could not be substantiated so the arrest will be voided, the officials said.

The paperwork was being

completed on cross-harassment complaints, which are considered a violation, and no other legal action would be taken, the officials said.

Lohan and LaBella met hours earlier at a night club, though it was unclear whether they previously knew each other, the officials said. They went back to her room, when she noticed the cellphone photos of her on his phone and grabbed the device, the officials said.

She claimed LaBella grabbed her and threw her, but later he said she had forcefully taken his phone, the officials said. Lohan was injured but not hospitalized, Honig said in a statement.

"Lindsay has spoken with police and is fully cooperating with the investigation," he said after LaBella's arrest.

This is Lohan's second run-in with law enforcement in as many weeks in New York City. The 26-year-old was accused last week of clipping a pedestrian with her car outside a nightclub and driving away. She was given a ticket and was sched-

uled to appear in court Oct. 23. Honig has said he expects those allegations to be proven false.

The actress was also involved in a car accident in California this summer that sent her and an assistant to a hospital, but didn't result in serious injuries for anyone. The accident remains under investigation.

In May, she was cleared of allegations that she struck a Hollywood nightclub manager with her car.

Lohan remains on informal probation for taking a necklace from a jewelry store without permission last year. That means she doesn't have to check in with a judge or probation officer but could face a jail term if arrested again.

Lohan recently filmed "The Canyons," an indie film written by "Less Than Zero" and "American Psycho" author Bret Easton Ellis.

Steve Tomaszewski, a spokesman for Illinois Rep. John Shimkus, confirmed Sunday afternoon that LaBella has worked for the congressman in his Washington office. Tomaszewski said no one from the Republican's office had been contacted by LaBella.

## Fan bites Danny Bonaduce at Wash. state casino

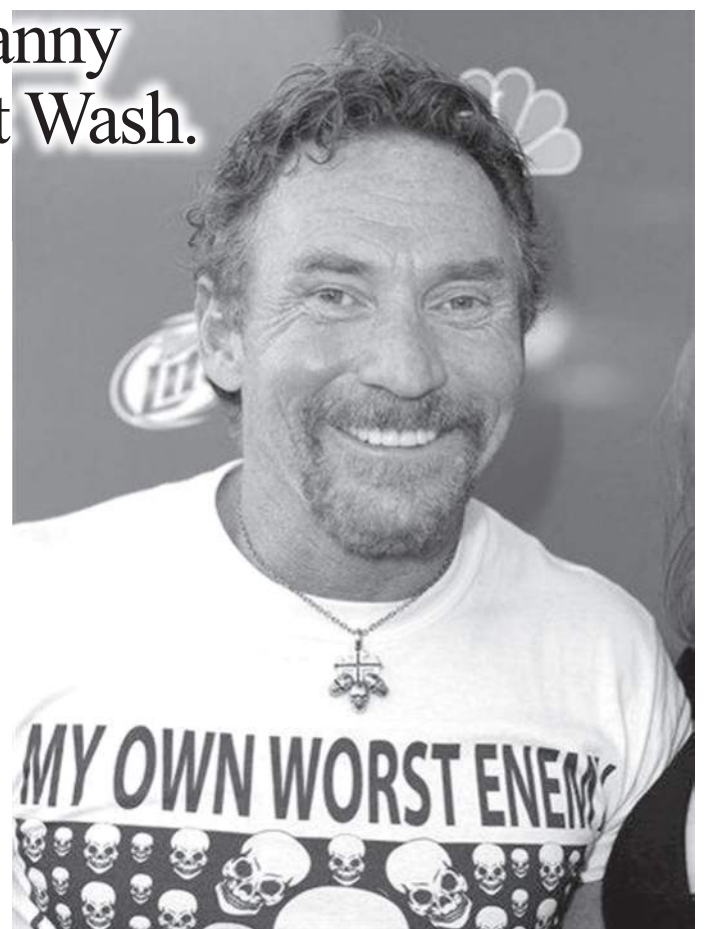
TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—Former child TV star Danny Bonaduce says a crazed fan bit him during an event at a Washington state casino.

The former "Partridge Family" actor tells The News Tribune of Tacoma the woman asked him if she could kiss him and then sank her teeth into his cheek for about a minute until others pulled her off.

Bonaduce, who works these days as a radio DJ in Seattle, said the woman was taken into custody Friday, but he doesn't plan to press charges.

His face had a bright red mark a day later, when he said what he was thinking during the attack, "Bath salts," he said, referencing a designer drug linked to bizarre and violent behavior in users.

Bonaduce's wife, Amy, says her husband was treated with antibiotics.



In this Sept. 18, 2008 photo, Danny Bonaduce poses as he arrives at NBC's Fall Premiere Party, in Los Angeles. Former child TV star Danny Bonaduce says a crazed fan bit him during an event at a Washington state casino.

## SECRETS

From Page 17

ger says he kept the secret from his wife for years because he was worried "it would get out."

He tells Stahl he never even had a conversation with the housekeeper, Mildred Baena, about the son. Instead, after he began noticing the boy's strong resemblance to him, around age 8, he just began giving Baena

extra money.

"I kind of put it away and just said to myself, 'OK, I'm going to put this away. I'm going to fulfill my responsibilities,'" he tells Stahl.

He declined to say whether he has a relationship with the child, who is now about 15, and he said he didn't want to go into any more details about his relationship with Baena because he's already caused Shriver and their four children

enough pain.

"I don't want to reawaken and kind of talk about it because it's not going to help them. And I just want to protect them as much as I can," he says.

There were other deceptions, too, including a "hot affair" with actress Brigitte Nielsen while filming the 1985 film "Red Sonja," when he and Shriver were living together. He admits to other affairs, but tells Stahl they are "something that's obviously

between Maria and me."

Schwarzenegger says in the interview that his marriage and his family were the most important things in his life, but he caused them tremendous pain.

"So the thing that really meant the most to me kind of fell apart because of my doing," he says in the "60 Minutes" interview. "That is something that I will always look back and say, 'How could you have done that?'"



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

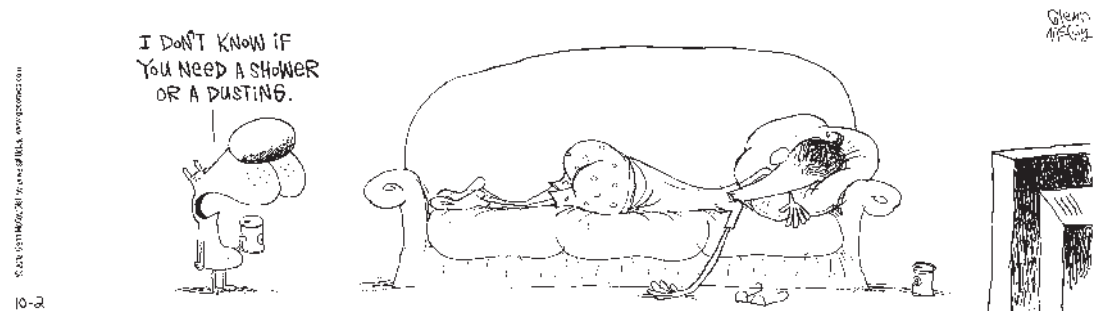
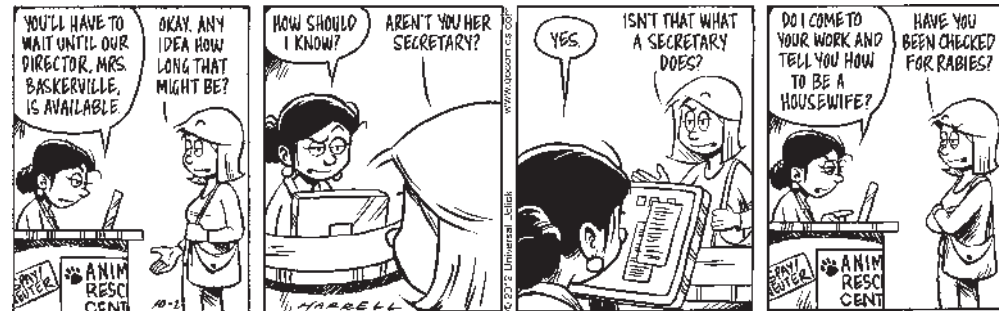


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

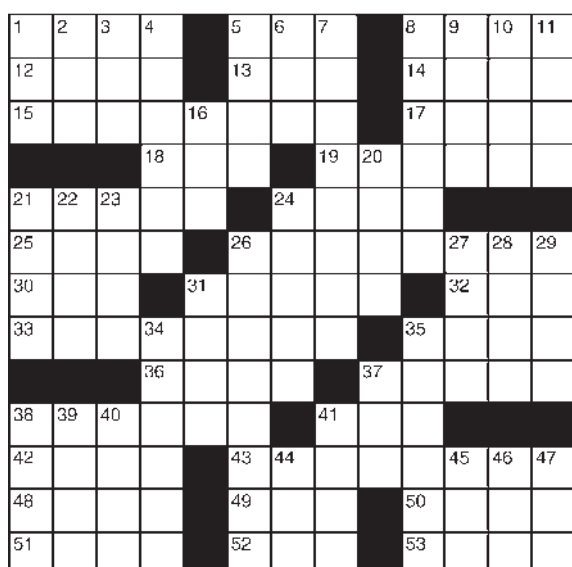
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Length times width
- 5 Matter-horn, for one
- 8 Language of Pakistan
- 12 Man of the manor
- 13 Bygone space station
- 14 Tide type
- 15 Make valid
- 17 San —, Italy
- 18 Pantheon member
- 19 Stockholm's land
- 21 West Pointer
- 24 — pin and pick it up, ...
- 25 Colors
- 26 Fine
- 30 Actress Hagen
- 31 Puncture
- 32 By way of
- 33 Preach
- DOWN**
- 1 Every-thing
- 2 Fish eggs
- 3 Work unit
- 4 Old sayings
- 5 In the thick of
- 6 "30 Rock" role
- 7 Charisma
- 8 Fictitious
- 9 Clarinet insert
- 10 Knight's lady
- 11 "Once — a time ..."
- 16 Parcel of land
- 20 Frail
- 21 Pal
- 22 Car
- 23 Sweetie
- 24 Grab
- 26 Ancient
- 27 Terrible guy?
- 28 Galvanizing stuff
- 29 Facility
- 31 Advertise
- 34 From the start
- 35 Penn and —
- 37 Air safety org.
- 38 Cornfield intruder
- 39 Arizona tribe
- 40 Touch
- 41 Edinburgh resident
- 44 Praise in verse
- 45 A Gershwin brother
- 46 Microwave
- 47 "Guinness Book" suffix

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-2



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kelly Ripa, 42; Lorraine Bracco, 58; Sting, 61; Donna Karan, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Don't let stubbornness stand in your way. Believe in your abilities and trust your instincts. Build a comfortable place to explore new avenues and develop talents. Your home is your castle and must be pleasing if you want to advance personally and professionally. An even pace and positive attitude will make a difference to your future. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 26, 30, 39, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Your ambition may bother the people around you. Find a quiet spot where you can work diligently and stay out of the way, or take your interests and head out to places where you will encounter people who share your concerns. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Share your thoughts, but be open for suggestions. Much can be accomplished if you don't allow emotional discord to stand in your way. A partnership may disappoint you if you are heading in different directions. You must fulfill your creative dreams. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Expect to have problems with a colleague. Take time out to enjoy someone's company who isn't judgmental and wants to explore activities that you find more fun. Moneymaking and friendship will lead to trouble. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't be a martyr. Taking on responsibilities will leave you depressed and tired. Delegate work to others so everyone can have a balance

between hard work and play. Don't let a pushy client or colleague cause you to make an impulsive move. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** A financial gain is risky but possible. Be fearless and time your moves precisely. Putting pressure on others will not work. You will have to take care of business on your own. In the end, you will reap what you sow. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Focus on you and what you want, but don't overspend to do so. You can make money if you pursue your own business. Take a chance if it will allow you to show what you have to offer. Exude confidence. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Look over your personal papers and consider your options. You need to clear up loose ends contractually, legally or financially before you can make your next move. Travel or research will expand your knowledge and philosophic outlook. ★★★

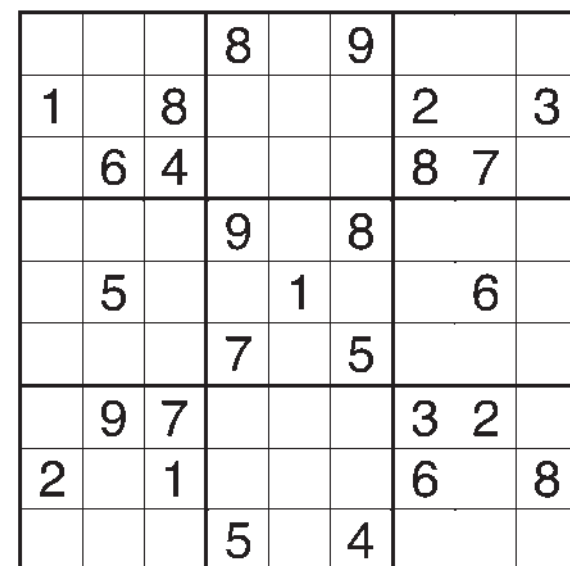
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keep your emotions well hidden. Not everyone is trustworthy, and ulterior motives are likely to come into play in business dealings. Stick close to home and focus on developing what you do best. A service you have to offer will flourish. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Stick to the rules. Exaggeration will lead to sorrow. Make positive changes at home that will help you expand your interests personally and professionally. Mishaps and injuries are apparent if you aren't careful. Avoid disagreements. Make love, not war. ★★

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



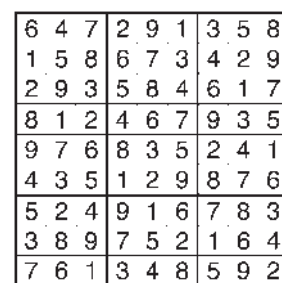
Difficulty Level ★★

10/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY  
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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Opportunities to make money may interfere with your plans. You are likely to disappoint friends and relatives. Organize outings that will be fun for everyone. You may feel obliged to help an outsider, but remember charity begins at home. ★★★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Listen to advice being offered, but do your own research. You know what you are capable of doing and what you can afford. A change at home will do you good. Avoid anyone putting pressure on you by using emotional guilt tactics. ★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You will enjoy get-togethers and activities. A relationship with someone will change, creating the necessity to alter your own lifestyle or plans for the future. Emotional blackmail will help you get what you want initially, but not long-term. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are entertaining but intent on getting your way. You are outgoing and outspoken. Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAKING CORRECTIONS

Solution: 10 letters

Y E T E X T A R R A N G E S T  
T F L H S P R E V O E T I R W  
E R I B G E K A T S I M A E R  
T R O T I I E L N R P N E H I  
E T A P C S R W W R S D T C T  
L S L P E E I E O C A O C A T  
E E N F E R R V R R U E E E E  
D U L O I R E I G C D K L T N  
I Q C L I X P P H C R S E V Y  
C E E M I T U P O P H A S E A  
T R H E I K P P O A F M P R S  
A C N O U N S O T N T E I B S  
T K N H S I L O P G S N T S E  
E V A S E R U T A E F D A E R  
D T I D E T A I L E D E B U G

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10/2

Amend, Arrange, Change, Debug, Delete, Detailed, Dictated, Drafts, Edit, Essay, Features, Fix Up, Improve, Laptop, Learn, Mistake, Nouns, Options, Polish, Prepare, Read, Rectify, Report, Request, Rewrite, Right, Save, Seek, Select, Skill, Teachers, Text, Time, Tips, Touch-up, Transcription, Upgrade, Verbs, Visible, Words, Write Over, Written

**Yesterday's Answer: Syllabus**  
THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 34: Contains 243 4-letter words arranged alphabetically. Includes 243 4-letter words, 243 5-letter words, 243 6-letter words, 243 7-letter words, 243 8-letter words, 243 9-letter words, 243 10-letter words, 243 11-letter words, 243 12-letter words, 243 13-letter words, 243 14-letter words, 243 15-letter words, 243 16-letter words, 243 17-letter words, 243 18-letter words, 243 19-letter words, 243 20-letter words, 243 21-letter words, 243 22-letter words, 243 23-letter words, 243 24-letter words, 243 25-letter words, 243 26-letter words, 243 27-letter words, 243 28-letter words, 243 29-letter words, 243 30-letter words, 243 31-letter words, 243 32-letter words, 243 33-letter words, 243 34-letter words, 243 35-letter words, 243 36-letter words, 243 37-letter words, 243 38-letter words, 243 39-letter words, 243 40-letter words, 243 41-letter words, 243 42-letter words, 243 43-letter words, 243 44-letter words, 243 45-letter words, 243 46-letter words, 243 47-letter words, 243 48-letter words, 243 49-letter words, 243 50-letter words, 243 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Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANET U. MARATITA, RAY ANTHONY N. YUMUL, for themselves and on behalf of the taxpayers of the CNMI and the ratepayers of CUC, AND THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH SENATE,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.  
BENIGNO R. FITIAL, EDWARD T. BUCKINGHAM COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, AND SAIPAN DEVELOPMENT, LLC,  
Defendants.

TO: EDWARD T. BUCKINGHAM

YOU ARE HERBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the First Amended Complaint, which is served herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Plaintiffs' attorney. Ramon K. Quichocho, Esq., whose address is:

LAW OFFICES OF RAMON K. QUICHOCHO, LLC  
Karissa Center, 1st Floor, Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai  
P.O. Box 505621  
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Superior Court, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of the Superior Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the First Amended Complaint.

By order of this Court, dated this 30th day of August, 2012.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ Deputy Clerk

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# Yankees clinch playoff seat



**TORONTO** (AP)—Eduardo Nunez drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly, and the Yankees overcame a 5-1 deficit and clinched their 17th playoff berth in 18 years.

Toronto took a 5-1 lead in the fifth against Phil Hughes, but the Yankees closed in the sixth on a run-scoring pitch by Henderson Alvarez and tied it an inning later on Ichiro Suzuki's sacrifice fly, Robinson Cano's RBI double against Steve Delabar and Aaron Lough's run-scoring wild pitch.

Boone Logan (7-2) got the final two outs of the seventh. Darren Oliver (3-4) was the loser.

## Orioles 6, Red Sox 3

In Baltimore, the Orioles clinched their first playoff berth since 1997, extending their winning streak to four by beating the Boston Red Sox, 6-3, as Nate McLouth, J.J. Hardy and Chris Davis hit solo homers.

With three games left, the Orioles (92-67) are tied with the New York Yankees for the AL East lead and already have 23 more wins than a year ago. Baltimore and New York both clinched no worse than a wild card when the Los Angeles Angels lost to Texas 8-7 Sunday night.

## Angels 5, Rangers 4 Rangers 8, Angels 7

In Arlington, Mike Napoli homered twice and drove in six runs as Texas clinched its third straight playoff berth. Napoli's second homer in the nightcap was a go-ahead three-run shot in the third.

Two-time defending AL champion Texas (93-66) can be no worse than a wild card. Los Angeles (88-71) trails Oakland (91-68) by three games for the AL's second wild card with three games left.

After blowing a save in the opener by allowing Torii Hunter's two-run double with two outs in the ninth, Joe Nathan worked the ninth in the nightcap for his 37th save.

## Athletics 5, Mariners 2

In Oakland, Yoenis Cespedes broke a 2-2 tie in the eighth with a home run off Shawn Kelley (2-4) as Oakland closed on its first playoff berth in six years. Josh Reddick connected with a two-run shot for his team-leading 32nd homer two batters later as the A's completed a three-game sweep.

Sean Doolittle (2-1) pitched a perfect eighth for the win, and Grant Balfour finished for his 22nd save.

## Tigers 2, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Prince Fielder hit a two-run, opposite-field homer to left off Jared Burton (3-2), his 30th of the season, and Detroit opened a season-

high, three-game lead over the second-place Chicago White Sox in the AL Central with three games to play.

Detroit, which lost to Texas in last year's AL championship series, closes at Kansas City while Chicago is at Cleveland.

## Rays 6, White Sox 2

In Chicago, David Price (20-5) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings to become Tampa Bay's first 20-game winner, B.J. Upton hit his 27th and 28th homers and Tampa Bay (88-71) remained three games behind Oakland for the AL's second wild-card berth with three games left.

Tampa Bay won for the 10th time in 11 games. Chicago, which held at least a share of the AL Central lead from July 24 until Wednesday, has lost 10 of 12.

## Indians 15, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera capped a 10-run fifth inning with a grand slam as Cleveland

tied season highs for runs and hits (19), improving to 2-1 under interim manager Sandy Alomar Jr.

Zach McAllister (6-8) pitched five-hit ball over 6 2-3 innings, allowing three runs. Royals starter Luke Hochevar (8-16) was tagged for nine runs over 4 2-3 innings.

## Cardinals 10, Nationals 4

In St. Louis, Carlos Beltran homered from both sides of the plate for the ninth time in his career and drove in five runs, and the St. Louis Cardinals closed in on the NL's second wild-card berth by beating the Washington Nationals.

St. Louis (86-73) took a 7-0 lead by the third inning and reduced its magic number for clinching to two. They lead the Dodgers by two games for the second NL wild card.

## Braves 6, Mets 2

In Atlanta, the Braves won for a major league record 23rd straight time in games started by Kris Medlen, beating the Mets in the regular-season home finale for Chipper Jones.

Medlen (10-1) gave up one unearned run and three hits in six innings.

According to STATS LLC research going back to 1921, only two other teams won 22 straight starts by a pitcher: the New York Giants with Carl Hubbell (1936-37) and the Yankees with Whitey Ford (1950-53). Ford's streak was interrupted by military service.

## Reds 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, the Pirates ensured they'd finish with a record 20th straight losing season Sunday when they blew a ninth-inning lead in a 4-3 defeat to the Reds.

Pinch-hitter Xavier Paul led off the ninth with a home run off Joel Hanrahan (5-2) and Zack Cozart had a go-head double for Cincinnati, who clinched home-field advantage in the NL division series.

## Dodgers 7, Rockies 1

In Los Angeles, Josh Beckett earned his first victory in his last five starts and the Los Angeles Dodgers backed him with three homers, beating Colorado for their fifth straight win to stay in contention for an NL wild-card spot.

Matt Kemp, Luis Cruz and A.J. Ellis each hit two-run homers as the Dodgers remained two games behind St. Louis for the second wild card.

## Phillies 4, Marlins 1

In Miami, Cole Hamels struck out eight and allowed one run over seven innings to finish his season with a flourish, and the Phillies beat the Marlins.

Hamels (17-6) allowed five hits and walked only one in his final start of the year for the Phillies (80-79), who need one win in the final three-game series at Washington starting Monday to finish at least .500 for the 10th straight season.

## Astros 7, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Jordan Lyles pitched his first major league shutout and hit his first home run as Houston eliminated the Brewers from wild-card playoff contention.

The Brewers, who reached the NL championship series last year, had surged since mid-August to get back into the post-season race. But the last-place Astros won two of three at Miller Park to finish off Milwaukee.

## Giants 7, Padres 5

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Xavier Nady homered off Huston Street to tie the game with one out in the ninth and Hunter Spence hit a go-ahead, two-run shot as the Giants rallied to beat San Diego.

Tim Lincecum might no longer be a lock for the No. 3 spot in NL West champion Giants playoff rotation — he gave up a season-high three homers.

## Cubs 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Anthony Rizzo had three hits, David DeJesus homered and the Chicago Cubs ended a seven-game losing streak, beating the Diamondbacks.

The Cubs had lost 18 in a row against NL West opponents. The win allowed them to avoid a 100th loss this season, with three games remaining.

Chris Rusin (2-3) allowed one earned run and three hits in five innings.

Brian LaHair's two-run single capped a four-run sixth inning against Bryan Shaw (1-6) and two other Arizona relievers.

# Picked for a reason, US veterans don't deliver



USA's Jim Furyk reacts after missing a putt on the 16th hole during a singles match at the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.

**MEDINAH, ILL.** (AP)—Steve Stricker stared blankly across the fairway, his hand on his face, as the celebration went on around him.

Jim Furyk had his moment of despair a few minutes earlier, leaning over with his hands on his knees as if he were trying to keep from getting sick after his final putt on the 18th green slid by the hole.

They were supposed to be the backbone of the U.S. Ryder Cup

team, the veteran players captain Davis Love III could count on when things got tough. Love picked them both to do just that after they didn't qualify for the team on their own.

But the stifling pressure of the Ryder Cup was simply too much.

Both had great chances to give the U.S. the point—or even half-point—the home team desperately needed to win the Cup when

everything started to go bad. Both failed, leading to a home-team collapse unlike any in Ryder Cup history.

All Furyk needed to do was par one of the last two holes to get a half-point, and couldn't. Stricker needed pars on the final two holes, and didn't make them.

And in the end all they could do was watch as Martin Kaymer made a 6-foot par putt that sealed their fate.

"We put a lot of expectations on ourselves to perform," Stricker said. "And sometimes it's good and bad."

For Stricker, it was a terrible ending to what had already been a lousy week. He was sent out three times with Tiger Woods to win points on the first two days, only to come back empty each time.

Had he and Woods been able to contribute even something, a big U.S. lead going into the last day might have been insurmountable. But they were beaten each time, twice in better ball and once in alternate shot.

That didn't keep Love from following his plan to send Stricker and Woods off in the final two pairings Sunday. It hardly looked as if they would be needed with the U.S. leading 10-6 going into singles play, but Love felt better having them there just in case.

"We put who we thought was our hot players up front and we put who we thought was our steady players in the back that would get us points," Love said. "We just got a couple matches flipped there in the middle that cost us."

Love will likely be second-guessed for the next two years on his lineup, but for most of the afternoon it looked as though it was playing out to plan. The Europeans were winning points early—and lots of them—but Furyk was holding steady in the eighth match and Stricker and Woods were holding their own in the final two matches.

Furyk, who admitted the moment got the better of him this year when he fell apart after leading the U.S. Open on the back nine, had made four birdies against a single bogey and was 1 up on Sergio Garcia when the two got to the tee of the tricky par-3 17th hole. But he put his tee shot in an awkward position in the back bunker and couldn't get up-and-down, and then compounded his error by hitting his tee shot on the 18th hole into a fairway bunker.

"It's been a low year," Furyk said. "I've played very well this year, but haven't closed the door. I'm pretty sure Sergio would tell you that I outplayed him today but I didn't win and I lost the match. I've had a lot of that happen this year."





# Bryant lifts Falcons to 30-28 win over Panthers



ATLANTA—Matt Bryant kicked a 40-yard field goal with five seconds remaining and the Atlanta Falcons remained unbeaten, rallying past the Carolina Panthers 30-28 on Sunday.

The Falcons (4-0) are off to their best start since 2004, when they reached the NFC championship game. Despite taking a career-high seven sacks, Matt Ryan threw three touchdown passes for Atlanta. Bryant added three field goals.

The Panthers (1-3) nearly clinched it on Cam Newton's run with just over a minute remaining, but he fumbled the ball while trying to dive for the necessary yardage. Carolina recovered and wound up punting, downing the ball at the Atlanta 1. But Ryan immediately got the Falcons out of the hole, throwing a 59-yard pass to Roddy White.

Four plays later, Bryant won it.

## Texans 38, Titans 14

In Houston Danieal Manning and Kareem Jackson returned interceptions for touchdowns and Matt Schaub threw two TD passes.

Arian Foster had a touchdown run for the Texans (4-0), who are off to the best start in club history.

Titans quarterback Jake Locker left in the first quarter and did not return after hurting his left, non-throwing shoulder on a hit by Glover Quin.

Matt Hasselbeck threw two touchdown passes in relief of Locker for the Titans (1-3). Chris Johnson carried 25 times for 141 yards, more than tripling his rushing total through the first three games.

## Cardinals 24, Dolphins 21, OT

In Glendale, Jay Feely kicked a 46-yard field goal 6:31 into overtime to keep Arizona unbeaten.

The Cardinals (4-0) forced overtime when Kevin Kolb threw a 15-yard touchdown pass on fourth down to Andre Roberts with 22 seconds to play in regulation.

Two big defensive plays set up the final two Arizona scores. First, Daryl Washington sacked rookie Ryan Tannehill, whose fumble was recovered by Vonnie Holliday at the Arizona 49 and the Cardinals moved downfield to score.

The winning field goal came after Tannehill was hit by Paris Lenon as he threw and Kerry Rhodes came up with an interception.

## 49ers 34, Jets 0

In East Rutherford, Carlos Rogers returned a fumble 51 yards for a touchdown, and San Francisco ran for more



Carolina Panthers wide receiver Louis Murphy (83) is stopped by Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dunta Robinson, left, and strong safety William Moore during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012, in Atlanta.

than 200 yards.

Frank Gore, Kendall Hunter and backup quarterback Colin Kaepernick — on a wildcat-style option — all ran for scores as the 49ers (3-1) bounced back from a loss at Minnesota. Rather than head back to the West Coast, coach Jim Harbaugh chose to have his team stay in eastern Ohio — and it apparently helped.

The Jets (2-2) lost top wide receiver Antonio Holmes to what appeared to be a serious foot injury. It was the first time New York was shut out since losing 9-0 to Green Bay in 2010, and the Jets' biggest shutout home loss since falling 37-0 to Buffalo in 1989.

## Broncos 37, Raiders 6

In Denver, Peyton Manning finished with 338 yards and three touchdown passes.

Manning opened the game by leading the Broncos on an 80-yard touchdown drive — their first opening-quarter touchdown of the season — and Denver never trailed.

The Broncos (2-2) beat the Raiders (1-3) at home for the first time since 2007.

Willis McGahee ran for 112 yards for his 32nd-career 100-yard game.

## Eagles 19, Giants 17

In Philadelphia, Lawrence Tynes missed two field-goal tries from 54 yards with 15 seconds left and Philadelphia held on

to beat the New York Giants.

Tynes missed wide left, but the Eagles had called a timeout to ice him. He was short on his second attempt.

With LeSean McCoy leading the way on the ground, Michael Vick guided the Eagles (3-1) to another comeback.

Alex Henery kicked a 26-yard field goal with 1:49 left and the Eagles overcame two pass-interference penalties on New York's final drive.

## Vikings 20, Lions 13

In Detroit, Percy Harvin returned the opening kickoff 105 yards for a touchdown and Marcus Sherels scored on a punt return early in the third for Minnesota.

Minnesota (3-1), in first place in the NFC North, matched the number of wins it had last season. The Vikings also snapped an 11-game losing streak in the division.

The Lions (1-3) have lost three straight.

They are the first team since at least 1940 to give up a kickoff and a punt return for TDs in consecutive games, according to STATS LLC. They gave up scores on a kickoff and punt in last week's 44-41 loss in overtime at Tennessee.

## Rams 19, Seahawks 13

In St. Louis, Rookie Greg Zuerlein kicked four field goals, including a 58-yarder and a club record 60-yarder, and

the Rams also used a fake field goal to score their only TD of the game.

The Rams (2-2) went ahead 10-7 late in the first half when a fake field goal attempt turned into a 2-yard touchdown pass from punter Johnny Hekker to Danny Amendola.

The Seahawks (2-2) lost six days after beating Green Bay when a botched call by replacement officials on the final play gave them the winning touchdown. Regular officials were back this weekend.

## Patriots 52, Bills 28

In Orchard Park, Tom Brady led New England on six consecutive second-half touchdown drives.

Brady finished 22 of 36 for 340 yards and three scores, and also scored on a 4-yard run in helping the Patriots (2-2) avoid their first three-game losing streak in 10 years. Stevan Ridley scored two touchdowns rushing. New England scored 35 straight points and finished with 580 total yards in overcoming a 21-7 third-quarter deficit.

The Patriots forced six turnovers, including four interceptions of Ryan Fitzpatrick passes, and three sacks.

## Chargers 37, Chiefs 20

In Kansas City, Philip Rivers threw for 209 yards and two touchdowns, and San Diego capitalized on six turnovers.

Five of the Chiefs' turnovers came

in the first half, when San Diego (3-1) raced to a 27-6 lead.

Matt Cassel threw for 251 yards and two touchdowns for Kansas City (1-3), but he also had three first-half interceptions. Jamaal Charles, who followed his big game last week at New Orleans with touchdowns rushing and receiving, fumbled twice.

## Packers 28, Saints 27

In Wisconsin, Aaron Rodgers threw a go-ahead touchdown to Jordy Nelson in the fourth quarter, and Green Bay shook off a week's worth of controversy with a rally.

With Packers fans howling about what appeared to be yet another bad call—this time by the regular officials, not the replacements—Garrett Hartley missed a 48-yard field goal attempt with just under three minutes remaining, costing the Saints a shot at the lead.

Rodgers threw for 319 yards with four touchdowns and an interception for the Packers (2-2).

Drew Brees threw for 446 yards with three touchdowns for the winless Saints (0-4). Brees has thrown at least one touchdown in 47 straight regular-season games, tying the NFL's all-time mark set by Johnny Unitas.

## Redskins 24, Buccaneers 22

In Tampa, Billy Cundiff redeemed himself for a poor day kicking, booting a 41-yard field goal with 3 seconds remaining.

Cundiff missed three earlier attempts, including a 31-yarder that would have put the Redskins (2-2) up by two scores early in the fourth quarter. He also missed twice in the first half, but was on the money after Robert Griffin III marched his team into position for the winning score.

Tampa Bay (1-3) wiped out an 18-point deficit to go ahead 22-21 on Connor Barth's third field goal, a 47-yarder with 1:42 remaining.

## Bengals 27, Jaguars 10

In Jacksonville, Andy Dalton threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score.

Dalton and A.J. Green burned Jacksonville several times, including once to set up a second-quarter touchdown and again for a fourth-quarter score.

The Bengals (3-1) finished with six sacks, putting constant pressure on Blaine Gabbert and overcoming all those defensive injuries. Cincinnati played without starting cornerbacks Nate Clements and Leon Hall as well as backups Jason Allen and Dre Kirkpatrick.

The Jaguars (1-3) failed to take advantage.

# LeBron James: Heat can be better



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James was back in the Miami Heat locker room last weekend, took a look around at his teammates and quickly came to a realization.

The reigning NBA champions might even be better this time around.

With 12 players back from last season's championship roster—foremost among them himself, after a season where he won the NBA's MVP award, the NBA Finals MVP, his first league title and then an Olympic gold medal over the summer for good measure—

the Heat clearly have tons of talent. Adding Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis to the mix figures to make them that much better.

Naturally, James isn't complaining. "It's scary to see, to look in our locker room today and say that we can be better than we were this past season," James said. "Are we better right now than we were just a couple months ago? Of course not."

"But we have the potential to be better. We have the potential to be a lot better. That is scary."

Friday was the annual media day for the Heat, who open their training camp

officially with practice on Saturday morning—the Heat can open camp earlier than most other teams because they have a trip to China in early October.

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh talked about how they're continuing to heal after injuries dogged them in last season's playoffs, and Udonis Haslem was followed around by a camera crew there to, as he said, document "The Little 12," his description for everyone not in the "Big Three" club of Wade, Bosh and James.

Haslem's cameras might have been the only ones not on James, who hasn't spoken publicly much

since the Olympics ended.

"He's not on cruise control, no," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said when asked about James. "He's as driven a professional as I've been around. He understands not only his legacy, but team legacy and the opportunity that this team and organization has. And he savors that. He's the ultimate competitor."

It took James nine years to win that long-coveted first title, after leading the Heat past the Oklahoma City Thunder in five games. His clinching performance was a classic—a triple-double, 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds. James came out with 3:01 remaining and the celebrating started, waving his arms and jumping on the sideline, then wrapping anyone and

everyone he could reach in massive embraces.

So began his summer vacation. It lasted about a week.

Not long after the champagne dried and the Heat parade ended, James went to play for the U.S. Olympic Team, helping the Americans win gold. After that, some business dealings—including a trip to China and a switch of agents, from Leon Rose to Rich Paul—took up more of his offseason.

And now, training camp has already arrived.

Not much down time, but neither James nor the Heat seems all that concerned.

"I've worked on a few things," James said.



## 4 TRENCH

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mission.

Danas also arose triumphant in his first ever K-1 kickboxing exhibition, as he earned a unanimous decision over Gaum Muay Thai's Jared "The Spartan" Martin after three rounds. The pair's match, set at 140lbs, was featured as the curtain raiser.

In other results, one Zalaka product and two independent fighters also bagged wins last Friday, while Tinian featherweight Regino Mundo (5-1) of Zeng Zung was awarded a forfeit win over Zalaka's Nick Jones in their scheduled K-1 kickboxing exhibition.

Zalaka's Jordan Manglona dominated Trench Tech newcomer Wini "The Woo-Hoo Kid" Roldan Jr. for two rounds of their K-1 exhibition set at 130lbs to even his card to 1-1.

Though Roldan showed a lot

of toughness, he was clearly outclassed by Manglona, who dished out multiple combinations with his hands and maintained a good pace through all three frames.

After the fight, the victor called out Gaum's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos (1-1) of Countershot MMA.

Tavita independent fighter Kevin "KJ" Villagomez took advantage of an ill-timed slip by fellow independent, Leo Mendiola, in their double debut set at 120lbs. Both fighters came out swinging, but once Mendiola lost his footing, Villagomez wasted no time locking in a guillotine choke for the win just 46 seconds into the first round.

Independent bantamweight Ray "Faluwasch" Teregeyo stepped into the cage in place of Kyle Toves and evened his record to 1-1 after a verbal submissions victory over the debuting Garry "Disa" Ray in two rounds.

on the last hole.

Six of the 12 matches went to the 18th hole on Sunday. The Americans won only one of them.

"Today was certainly not what we expect," U.S. captain Davis Love III said.

Love became the first U.S. captain to sit every player at least once before Sunday, wanting them to be fresh for the decisive day. Instead, the Americans faltered at the end - especially Furyk and Stricker, two of his captain's picks.

The only U.S. points came from Dustin Johnson, who went 3-0 in this Ryder Cup, Zach Johnson and unheralded Jason Dufner.

"We're all kind of stunned," Love said. "We know what it feels like now from the '99 Ryder Cup. It's a little bit shocking. We were playing so well, we figured it didn't matter how we sent them out there. We got a couple of matches flipped there in the middle that cost us."

Love thought all along the Ryder Cup would be decided in the ninth match by Dufner. It was most appropriate that Europe won the cup thanks to Kaymer.

Kaymer gave German golf some redemption from Kiawah Island in 1991, when countryman Bernhard Langer missed a par putt from about the same length that allowed the Americans to win.

"I did think about him, especially when I walked around the hole and read the putt from the other side," Kaymer said. "So I thought, 'OK, it's not going to happen again, it's not going to happen again.' And to be honest with you, I didn't really think about missing. There was only one choice you have. You have to make it."

It was a collapse the Americans won't soon forget. Just 24 hours earlier, they had a 10-4 lead with two team matches still on the course - they were ahead in one of them, while Woods and Stricker were closing in on the other. It's hard to believe they would only win 3 1/2 points the rest of the way.

# Two in a row for Rollers 1; Ol'Aces prevail

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
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REPORTER



The Rollers 1 and Oleai Ol'Aces notched wins over separate opponents in the U20 division games in the 2012 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Rollers 1 chased down Hi-5 (1-2) in the fourth quarter and stole the win, 60-55, while the Ol'Aces cruised past RBC's Apaga Torchbearers (0-4) in the second half for a 46-32 victory.

The victory was second in a row for the Rollers 1 after losing its debut, while the third time was a charm for the Ol'Aces, who dropped their first two matches.

Frank Macahito and Emerson Feria teamed up for 11 points in the first quarter to put Hi-5 in the driver's seat, 13-9. Feria then hooked up with Rey Cabaltica in the second quarter and Hi-5 remained in control at the half, 29-24.

John Darag and Ralph Francisco tallied seven points apiece

in the first half to keep the Rollers 1 in the game. However, Hi-5 did not swallow down after the break and pressed on, 44-39, heading into crunch time. Macahito delivered nine markers in the third quarter, while his teammates shadowed Darag.

Francisco would not be denied, however, in the playoff period and scrambled for seven points, while his teammates also stepped up. In contrast, only Macahito and Cabaltica fought for Hi-5 in the fourth, as they combined for 10 markers.

Darag and Francisco turned in a dual effort of 28 points and received help from Ezra Caro and Renan Lansang, who had 11 and 8 markers, respectively. Feria and Macahito combined for 34 points.

In the second game, Allen Yu and David Lin dropped in a couple of baskets early on to give the Torchbearers a shaky 8-7 lead.

The Torchbearers then hung tough against the Ol'Aces through the second quarter in what was a highly defensive period that ended in a deadlock, 11-all.

The Ol'Aces awoke, however



after the break and jumped in front, 32-16, in the third quarter behind the eight points of Joseph Aguilar. The Ol'Aces were never threatened from thereon and ran away with the 14-point win.

### First Game

**Rollers 1 60** – Francisco 15, Darag 13, Caro 11, Lansang 8, Suarez 6, Deleon Guerrero 3, Manibusan 2.

**Hi-5 55** – Macahito 18, Feria 16, Cabaltica 11, Hofschneider 6, Ferrer 3, Hockett 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 9-13, 29-24, 39-44, 60-55.

### Second Game

**Ol'Aces 46** – Olopai 10, Alfred 9, Aguilar 8, Lisua 4, C. Rangamar 4, Rogolifo 4, Ichihara 3, Kaipat 2, J. Rangamar 2.

**Agape Torchbearers 32** – Al Yu 12, Lin 9, Am Yu 3, W. Yu 3, Thuan 2, Li 2, Chan 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 7-8, 11-11, 32-16, 46-32.

The Oleai Ol'Aces' Ryan Ichihara cashes in on a fastbreak layup during their game against the Agape Torchbearers in the U20 division of the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.  
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

## COMEBACK

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putt and halved his match with Steve Stricker, the Americans would have been one point away from winning—with Tiger Woods in the fairway and 1 up over Francesco Molinari.

Woods wound up missing a 3 1/2-foot par putt and conceded a par to the Italian from the same distance to halve their match. That extra half-point made it a clear-cut win for Europe, 14 1/2-13 1/2. Woods and Stricker, the anchors in the lineup, didn't win a single match at Medinah.

"This one is for all of Europe," Olazabal said. "Seve will always be present with this team. He was a big factor for this event for the European side, and last night when we were having that meeting, I think the boys understood that believing was the most important thing. And I think they did."

Poulter was the first to embrace Olazabal, which was only fitting.

It was Poulter who gave Europe hope Saturday evening when he made five straight birdies to turn a loss into a win and swing momentum in Europe's favor. Poulter was up to his fist-pumping, eye-bulging tricks again on the final day, winning the last two holes in his match against U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson.

And he had plenty of help. Europe's top five players in the lineup all won, including Rory McIlroy, who was lucky to be playing.

McIlroy thought his match was at 12:25 p.m.—it was listed in Eastern time, not Central—and needed a police escort to get to the course with 10 minutes to spare. Then, he came up with key birdies to hand Keegan Bradley his first loss of the week.

The biggest match might have belonged to Rose. He was on the verge of losing to Mickelson when Rose holed a 12-foot par putt to halve the 16th, made a 35-foot birdie putt from the back of the 17th green to win the hole, and then closed out Mickelson with a 12-foot birdie

## PIC

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many games for the streaking PIC, which shares the top spot with Mobil, while Armatech is still winless in five matches.

PIC, which got its fourth triumph on Sept. 20 against Servitek, 80-64, recorded another lopsided win after holding Armatech to 7 points in the second period.

Before the second-quarter collapse, Armatech remained afloat, behind by only three at the end of the opening canto, 14-17. Rodney Sacramento had 6 points for Armatech early in the game, while James Abuy led PIC with his two triples.

In the second quarter, Brett Sutton opened PIC's scoring with a pair of free throws and he and Bart Demapan asserted their might in the paint against the slower Armatech frontliners. The two PIC big men combined

for 12 points, stretching their lead to 17 at halftime, 38-21.

Armtech made only three field goals in the meltdown with Junar Guiab nailing two baskets and Elmer Esdrelon struggling with his two points. The other point came off Jerome Ano's split.

Armtech still failed to catch fire in the third, while Sutton and company continued to light up the scoreboard in that period. Sutton even livened up the predictable game with a dunk on a fastbreak play in the closing minutes of the third.

After three periods, PIC was way ahead, 61-38, and Armatech's hopes for a miracle remained a wish, as the former kept the double-digit winning margin.

Sutton paced PIC with his 18 points, while Abuy and Demapan contributed 14 and 12, respectively. Guiab had 15 for Armatech.

## Hi-5 91, Fong's Bakery 68

Hi-5 is also on a streak, nailing its third win in a row after pounding Fong's Bakery.

Dan Barcinas was added to the Hi-5 roster and he, Ponce Rasa, and Charlie Peters joined forces in the team's balance offense. Rasa fired 15 points, while Barcinas and Peters added 11 apiece, and six other Hi-5 players scored at least 5 points each en route to their 23-point victory.

Lerio Pagarao led all scorers with his 24 markers, making 12 of them in the first period, as Fong's managed to take the driver's seat, 16-15.

However, Fong's hold to the lead was short-lived, as Barcinas came to play in the second canto and logged 11 points to put Hi-5 on top, 40-33. Then in the second half, Hi-5 distributed the ball well to pull away and

hand Fong's its third loss in four games.

### First Game

**Hi-5 91** – Rasa 15, Barcinas 11, Peters 11, Acosta 8, Mendiola 8, Villacrusis 8, Quitugua 7, Iguel 7, Matagolai 5, T. DL Guerrero 4, Standish 4.

**Fong's Bakery 68** – Pagarao 24, De Leon 16, Tabora 8, Caro 6, Pantaleon 6, Catalla 4, Yalung 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-16, 40-33, 71-50, 91-68.

### Second Game

**PIC 73** – Sutton 18, Abuy 14, Demapan 12, Salem 8, Babauta 7, Bartolo 4, Abuel 4, Sublemente 2.

**Armtech 54** – Guiab 15, Joyner 12, Sacramento 12, Esdrelon 6, Gabaldon 4, Montano 2, Tobias 2, Je. Ano 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-14, 38-21, 61-54, 73-54.

## GUALO

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Pool B and the three tied squads will automatically advance to the playoffs and join frontrunner Anjie's Boys (6-1) if QQ Rent A Car loses to 360 Church (3-4) in a make-up game tonight at 6pm.

QQ Rent A Car holds a 4-3 record and a win over 360 Church will put the former in a four-way tie for the last three playoff berths in Pool B. In case of a four-way standoff, league organizers said they will implement a quotient system to determine the three other squads that will move into the playoffs. The team with the least points will be eliminated and if there is still a tie for the No. 4 spot, a playoff game will be played to resolve the deadlock.

Gualo Rai kept its playoffs

hopes alive after drawing a big game from Alex Lauron. The Gualo Rai forward missed several games, but made up for his long absence after scoring 30 points against Yuichiro. He had consistent contribution in all four quarters of the game, including an 8-point production in the fourth to keep Gualo Rai's distance.

Three other Gualo Rai players scored in double figures with Jun Estolas adding 18 and Victor Mallari and JP Jose chipping in 15 and 13, respectively. Estolas drained 12 of his total points in the third, lifting Gualo Rai to a 70-64 lead after trailing at the break, 41-43.

## San Antonio 69, Blue Haus 67

San Antonio clinched the top seeding in Pool A after outlasting Blue Haus last Saturday.

San Antonio now has a 6-1 record, as it also won via forfeiture against Mawati last Friday and will play its last game tomorrow against Playboy.

Only San Antonio and Zhaila's (5-2) are assured of playoff seats and the remaining two slots will be determined at the completion of the regular season games. Defending champion KFC has a strong chance of making it to the first round with its 5-3 record. Playboy (4-2), MBI (4-3), Blue Haus (3-3), and Wushin (3-4) are still in the thick of the fight. Blue Haus was scheduled to meet Playboy last night and the former will have its last game today against MBI. Playboy will then duel San Antonio tomorrow and is likely to keep its win (No. 4) against Wushin, as the latter has yet to pay the bond for the protest it filed during its game against

the former last week.

### FRIDAY

**Gualo Rai 93** – Lauron 30, Estolas 18, Mallari 15, Jose 13, Morales 5, Diaz 4, Galzote 2, Babauta 2.

**Yuichiro Printing 81** – Abedes 21, Cuktura 20, Gomez 14, Tengco 12, Sanciango 6, Enriquez 6.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-20, 41-43, 70-64, 93-81.

### SATURDAY

**Bgry. San Antonio 69** – Alegre 14, Palacios 11, Ne. Salem 10, Aranda 9, Tabora 8, De Guzman 7, Cadiang 6.

**Blue Haus 67** – Ogumoro 17, Camacho 16, Itaas 12, Aquino 9, Galulu 4, Olivos 2, Capalad 2, Fernandez 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-12, 35-34, 58-53, 69-67.





**Bryant lifts  
Falcons to  
30-28 win  
over Panthers**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Picked for  
a reason,  
US veterans  
don't deliver**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 4 Trench Tech bets win in ROP13

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

**T**rench Tech Purebred's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, Vince "The Clinch" Masga, Donivan "Track Star" Mendiola, and Jomar "Dynamite" Danas all had their hands raised in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 13: Destiny held last Friday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

**TRENCH TECH**

Alvarez made light work of Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga, top, tries to take the back of Zalaka's Joe Duenas from an upright position during their bantamweight brawl in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 13: Destiny held last Friday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Peligro" Rangamar (3-12) in their featherweight rematch by sinking in a Kimura arm lock at 3:21 into the first round for a tap out victory. The win was Alvarez's eighth in nine tries.

Masga improved to a flawless 4-0 record after a swift tap-out victory over Zalaka's Joe "Dynamite" Duenas (4-2). The young up and coming bantamweight brought his A-game with him on fight night and whipped up a crafty triangle submission against Duenas, just 1:01 into the very first round.

Mendiola shone in his MMA debut over Pwang's Pete "Project-K" Keju (0-4), winning their 160-lb bout.

The round looked even as Keju played good defense and snuck in some nice counter strikes, but it came to an abrupt end after the first bell as he also may have suffered an unfortunate eyeball scratch. Mendiola took the match via verbal sub-

**See 4 TRENCH on  
Page 23**

## Gualo Rai stays in playoff hunt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Gualo Rai capped its regular season campaign in the DLX/Gualo

Rai Invitational Basketball League with a crucial 93-81 win over Yuichiro Printing last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gualo Rai ended the round-robin elimination with a 5-3 record and is still in the playoff race, while Docomo is out of the running with its 2-6 mark. Gualo Rai is in a deadlock with Freestyl and LD Prime in second place in

**See GUALO on Page 23**

## Comeback complete, Europe tops Ryder Cup



MEDINAH, Ill. (AP)—Europe buried the memory of that American comeback at Brookline in 1999 with one that was even better.

Medinah was filled with sheer madness Sunday, the matches so close for so much of the day that even when Martin Kaymer stood over a 6-foot par putt on the 18th hole to clinch it, the Ryder Cup was up in air.

The putt was pure and the celebration was on.

"It will go down in the history books of the Ryder Cup," said European captain Jose Maria Olazabal.

The size of the comeback was equal to what the Americans pulled off at The Country Club, but at least they had help from endless cheers of the home crowd. Not many gave Europe much of a chance until Justin Rose and Sergio Garcia turned what looked to be certain losses into improbable wins, filling the scoreboard with European blue.

"What you did out there today was outstanding," Olazabal told his team at the closing ceremony. "You believed and you delivered. And I'm very proud



The European team poses with the trophy after winning the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.

that you have kept Europe's hands on this Ryder Cup. All men die, but not all men live. And you made me feel alive again this week."

Then, Olazabal bowed his head and closed his eyes as they filled with tears, and the

European fans sensed what was coming next.

He didn't have to say a word. They said it for him.

"Seve, Seve, Seve," they began to chant.

Seve Ballesteros. Olazabal walked down the

row and hugged every player until he saved the longest embrace for Lee Westwood, the only player who was on that 1997 team when Ballesteros was the captain, the last visible role he played at the Ryder Cup. He died in May 2011 at age 54 of a brain tumor.

Westwood, Garcia and Paul Lawrie were the only players on the '99 team that blew a 10-6 lead, and all of them won matches.

"We wanted to see how they would react, and see if they could hold it," Garcia said of the Americans. "And it was a combination of playing great, and maybe then that little bit of pressure getting to them."

The Americans were simply stunned.

Three times they came to the 17th hole with a chance to win a match, only for Europe to deliver the key shots that win the Ryder Cup. Ian Poulter won the last two holes, and so did Rose, a birdie-birdie finish to beat Phil Mickelson. Garcia won the last two holes with pars to beat Jim Furyk.

Furyk had beaten Garcia at Brookline in a pivotal match.

"That was fun," Furyk said. "This was pretty miserable."

If Kaymer had missed the

**See COMEBACK on Page 23**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Islands Club's Ray Babauta goes up for a shot against Servitek defenders during their game in the Emon Lodge caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. PIC won and also defeated Armatech last Thursday for a perfect 5-0 record.

## PIC picks up win No. 5

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



A week-long lay-off did not break Pacific Islands Club's momentum, as it cruised to a 73-54 win over

Armatech in the second game in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was fifth in as

**See PIC on Page 23**